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ask the people

Should drugs be legalized?

by Sandra Magana
and Ferhiz E. Dinshaw
photos by Phil Head

Ron Brietzke
"No, because although government funding may be used for helping addicts, others who may not be exposed to it will be exposed. If [drugs] are too easily accessible then there will be adverse effects."

Ron Ryder
"It would take away a lot of the financial problems involved. I would favor Amsterdam's approach to it."

Cesar Meneses
"We already have drugs that are legal like alcohol. The president celebrates alcohol. I don't think that we need more drugs to be legalized. It would be a harmful decision."

Von Work
"No, it needs to be stopped—it's too much. I've seen a lot of people wither away from these types of drugs. It's kind of depressing. I have a lot of friends who smoke the stuff and it's ruining their lives. I don't know if they can handle small dosages—they'd still need a high."

Valerie McKay
"Yes, it would cut down on hard crime. Only certain drugs like crack and heroin should be legalized, as it is in England."

Richard Derbyshire
"Not all drugs though. Pot is the only one I'd recommend because it helps people with health problems, gives people appetite if they don't have one. I need to know more about the effects of others. Everyone knows that crack kills."

Mathew Munroe
"Drugs ought to be legal to remove the profit motive. Use of drugs is part of human nature. We failed in outlawing them and now people are using them more than ever. We're making money for the mafia and organized crime. D.A. gets 1/10th of the cocaine coming into America."

THE TENDERLOIN TIMES

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letters

Population Bomb

Editors:

The present acrimonious debate over abortion should be dropped, and both sides join forces against the imminent danger of world-wide over-population, the solution for which is family planning. The institution of aggressive family planning in Thailand, China, and Mexico have significantly reduced their birth rates.

The statistics on the rapidly expanding growth of the population (1.7 million people per week) make it highly probable that the available food and medical facilities will be unable to meet the needs of the many in desperate need. Some 42,000 children are dying each day from famine and preventable diseases. (See Bulletin 1152, The Population Institute, 110 Maryland Ave., Washington, D.C. 20002.)

An in-depth study of the population rate-of-growth combined with similar studies of our environmental hazards and our dwindling natural resources provide a chilling picture of the future if preventive steps are not taken.

To quote the Population Institute: "No matter what your cause, it is a lost cause if we don't solve the problem of over-population."

-Marguerite Moses-Baker
-Charles R. Baker, M.D.

Ana Linder
"I don't know. There are a lot of implications on both sides. Government regulating doesn't make things better. Crime is not the answer."

Martha Neves
"No, I have seen what heroin and crack have done to kids. They experiment, get hooked and end up in jail. I don't see how legalization will help the addicts. They are still robbing and unemployed, so I don't know how that would work."

Fr. Thomas Flower
"Absolutely. Take the profit out of it for cops and robbers. Money corrupts both sides. The money could be spent on treatment programs and education."

Entitlement Education

Editors:

There is a great need for increased entitlement education in the Tenderloin. It is this kind of education that will teach people who are receiving, or applying for public assistance the different kinds of benefits that are available and which agency they must apply to.

With economic times getting tighter and tighter, we are seeing more and more people having to seek public support in order to live. Most have no idea where to start and often start out with incorrect information. Entitlement education would save people a lot of time and get them off on the right foot.

But it's not just the first timer or new applicant who needs to be educated. Many of the people now receiving assistance—some for a number of years—are still not fully aware of all the benefits they might be entitled to receive. Many do not realize that even though they are receiving public assistance grants they still do have legal rights equal to those rights of other citizens. Entitlement education would teach these people that they do not give up their citizenship in exchange for an assistance grant—although some policymakers would like for it to be so.

It is my opinion that if more single mothers who have children and are now receiving AFDC had been better educated about the grants they are receiving, there would have been a stronger turnout in the protest against the governor's proposed welfare cuts.

In many cases, service providers and caseworkers need to be re-educated and updated on the latest changes in entitlement law and benefit options. A lot of people might be underserved because their provider does not have enough information to help them.

It is my opinion that by better educating those who administer benefits as well as those who receive them, the system will work better for all concerned. In the long run, the system will be more effective and might even save a few dollars—perhaps enough to make Gov. Wilson's proposed cuts unnecessary.

-Oscar Rice
Peer Counselor
Tenderloin Self Help Center

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Memorial Pays Respect to Homeless Vietnam Veteran

by Tom McCarthy

A makeshift altar, burning incense, flowers, and a small wooden cross—these were the items used at a memorial to commemorate the passing of a homeless veteran on Jan. 30.

The simple, solemn ceremony took place at the foot of Haight Street at the edge of Golden Gate Park, where Ronald "Buzzard" Williams died from exposure on the night of Jan. 23.

"He never did harm no one," said one mourner, a man wearing several layers of clothes. "I loved him and I can feel the hurt."

A former U.S. Marine, Williams was remembered at the memorial not only by the people he lived with in the park, but also by members of the Homeless Veteran's Action Committee (HVAC).

"The reason why we do these services is most of us have been homeless and have lost a few friends, some brothers," said Ray Masterson. "We never got to say goodbye to our friends. The coroner just took them away and you never saw them again."

HVAC has offered other memorials for homeless veterans who have died on the streets. Usually there is no family to contact—often there is no official ceremony from the Department of Veterans Affairs, which at times cannot even confirm a veteran's status because records are incomplete or misplaced.

Williams, however, was confirmed as a veteran by the DVA, and was presented an American flag for his memorial service.

Photo: Phil Head

Wooden cross memorializes Vietnam vet.

Photo: Phil Head

Friends of Ronald "Buzzard" Williams gather at the site of his death to pay their respects.

As Rev. Glenda Hope read from Psalms, and Kevin O'Neill of the St. Boniface Church choir led the gathered in songs such as "Amazing Grace," a group formed around the tree under which Williams spent his last night: men dressed in rags or leather and camouflage uniforms adorned with military medals and unit insignia. One mourner wore a blue windbreaker, khaki slacks, aviator sunglasses, and a Veterans of Foreign Wars cap.

Bicyclists slowed down to gaze at the gathering, a group of schoolchildren on a field trip to the park paused nearby—"Sssh," said their teacher—and two policemen rode slowly by on their horses.

"We need to make the people take notice," said one mourner, a man who sleeps in the park near where Williams died. "We need to take it to the mayor, we need to take it to the people—we're dying out here."

NOMPC's Financial Fog Lifting—Sunny Days Ahead

by Tom McCarthy

The beleaguered North of Market Planning Coalition is still fighting for its financial life, but the prognosis is getting better, said Kathy Lu, executive director.

"There was a lot of concern and dismay at the prospect of closing the office," said Lu, "but that was a worst-case scenario."

NOMPC is contacting about 14 foundations for funding to keep the doors of the coalition office open. Many of the funders approached this time previously funded the creation of NOMPC's Tenderloin 2000 Plan—a vision that neighborhood residents have for the Tenderloin by the year 2000—and Lu feels they will want to fund its implementation.

"We also want to diversify and expand the base of our support," said Lu, adding that many other nonprofits from the Tenderloin appeal to the same organizations repeatedly. "We want to let other funders know about the good work going on down here."

Photo: Phil Head

Homelessness, poverty, and breakdowns of the spirit are some of the issues Garth Ferguson plans to address in his run for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Tenderloin Resident Runs For Board of Supervisors

by Tom McCarthy

Declaring his intention to "bake a new pie and cut everyone a new slice," neighborhood roustabout and Tenderloin Self Help Center counselor Garth Ferguson has filed with City Hall his intention to run for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Armed with encyclopedic knowledge of the problems and challenges facing the inner city, Ferguson, 46, a San Francisco native, says he will bring poor people's issues to the attention of the voters and the government in what promises to be a spirited campaign before the Nov. 3 election.

"Homelessness and poverty and breakdowns of the spirit, these are the issues I have been dealing with all my life," said Ferguson. "I want to talk about these issues in my campaign because I have lived them, and because I want my candidacy to symbolize the self-help model and reestablish our faith in politics.

"You know, we used to vote for someone because they were on the right side, but then they get into office and we find they are not on the right side," Ferguson added. "I am committed to San Francisco and to the Tenderloin. I was working on poverty issues and homelessness long before it was fashionable."

In addition to his counseling duties at the Self Help Center, Ferguson has been a volunteer at the HIV Vigil/San Francisco since its inception more than six years ago. He was also one of the people involved in forming Central City Hospitality House in 1967.

Ferguson has a low opinion of the political establishment, and supports initiatives such as term limits—but with a twist.

"I have mixed feelings about term limits," he said. "Limit them, yes, but I could support six years for a one-term president, 10 years for the Senate, and five years for the House."

Registered as a Democrat with a progressive voting history, Ferguson notes: "I am registered with the human race.

"I know all about voting while holding my nose," he added. "I think people are dissatisfied with professional politicians. I want to encourage others besides lawyers to run for office."

Homelessness, poverty, AIDS/HIV, Ferguson acknowledges, are not planks in the traditional campaign platform—as are cutting taxes or increased defense spending. But breaking with the traditions of the establishment, quite frankly, is the very point of his candidacy, he said.

"To win, of course, is something I would really like, but I also want to talk about empowering people, and I know enough about the dignity and significance of individuals to do that," he said.

The first step of his campaign, said Ferguson, is to establish an Issue Committee which will give him not only a broad base of support but also the widest possible understanding of the issues important to his constituency.

"If I was running only for myself," said Ferguson, "I would enter an answering machine into the race because when you call City Hall all you get is an answering machine. That's all we have over there anymore."

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Quake-Damaged Camelot Hotel to Get an Overhaul

by Bill Kisliuk

More than two years after the Loma Prieta earthquake racked the Camelot Hotel at 124 Turk St. and forced out its residents, the boarded-up and broken-down 85-year-old brick building will finally undergo repairs in the coming months.

The severely damaged six-story residential hotel, ignored by its owner, has become a hotspot for squatters, drug users, and vandals since the Oct. 17, 1989 quake.

Camelot owner Balubhai Patel recently admitted to the City Attorney's office and the Bureau of Building Inspection that he is unable to do necessary repairs and has allowed the building to enter "receivership." Receivership is invoked when the city or the courts appoint an independent officer to bring a neglected property up to safety standards in light of an owner's inability to do so.

After the receiver—developer Jack Doty—completes repairs on the Camelot, the building will be managed by a low-cost housing developer, the Downtown San Francisco Community Housing Coalition.

David Fox of the City Attorney's office said receivership—an increasingly effective tool in forcing owners to fix deteriorating properties—is probably the only way to save the Camelot from demolition. The six-story building has 55 residential units, more than any new structure could have under current building restrictions.

"A demolition would have been much simpler," said Fox. "But it would have been a tragic loss of opportunity to preserve the housing."

Since the quake, the city has spent more than $50,000 to place a security guard at the Camelot and close the building off because Patel has failed to attend to his property.

"We boarded the building up once or twice, welded the basement door shut, and hired a full-time security guard for almost a year," said Laurence Kornfield, chief building inspector for the code enforcement division of the Bureau of Building Inspection. "We've been actively trying to push this building into receivership for two years. Every step of the way has been a time-consuming problem."

Jack Doty, receiver of the building, said the Camelot was badly damaged by the 7.1 earthquake. "There was severe cracking of the shear walls, the elevator shaft was distorted and needs to be repaired, and the facade will have to be totally removed," he said.

Doty added that since the quake, thieves have made off with plumbing, pipe fittings, and personal possessions left behind by former residents. In early February, Doty said that it would be at least six weeks before financing comes through and work commences, and then another eight months until the building is ready for occupancy.

William James, President of the Board of Directors of the Downtown San Francisco Community Housing Coalition, said the new Camelot would still provide low-cost housing. "We're not in this to make a profit," he said. "All of our projects will be low-cost housing in the Tenderloin area."

Mayor Gives Support to Needle Exchange

by Scott Hadly

Mayor Frank Jordan surprised many AIDS activists in February when he put his full support behind legalizing needle exchange programs in San Francisco.

Needle swap programs across the country have been widely recognized as helping curb the spread of the AIDS virus by helping stop the sharing of contaminated needles among intravenous drug users.

Mike Shriver, a volunteer with Prevention Point Research Group and acting director of the 18th Street Services Center, said, "Frank Jordan's tradition is that he was a cop and he ran a 'law and order' sort of campaign. It's a paradox that the first significant thing he's done in office is take this action on needle exchange. He seems to be fulfilling his pledge, though, that he's not going to ignore AIDS."

In early February, the mayor signed a Board of Supervisor's resolution endorsing state legislation that would allow the city to begin a $150,000 pilot project for needle exchange, which would be part of a comprehensive plan intended to reduce the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users.

That plan would include drug treatment, street outreach, and an extensive media campaign, and is estimated to cost more than $2 million.

Almost immediately after the mayor signed the board's resolution, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown (D-San Francisco) introduced the legislation in the State Assembly, and State Senator Dianne Watson (D-Los Angeles) introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

"We are confident that the bill will pass and the governor will sign it," said Jim Lewis, Willie Brown's Chief of Staff. Debate on the bill is likely to begin this month.

Photo: Doug Niven

A Prevention Point volunteer swaps clean needles for used ones in an attempt to prevent the spread of the AIDS virus.

State Senator Quentin Kopp (I-San Mateo)—Jordan's political mentor—was an opponent of a similar bill that failed in the legislature in 1990. He has not recently taken a stand on needle exchange.

Steve Bloom, Jordan's press secretary, said, "We believe we have persuaded [Kopp] to at least be neutral."

Representatives from both Supervisor Angela Alioto's office and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation said that because San Francisco is so united behind needle exchange, Kopp would be "going out on a limb" if he opposes the bill.

According to Bloom, if the legislation doesn't pass, the mayor will declare a health emergency in the city to skirt the current law forbidding needle exchange.

George Clark, Prevention Point's project coordinator, said, "We're confident, but in the meantime we're still out there [exchanging needles] every week, and we still have to come up with the money."

Mayor's Street Sweep Plan Panned

by Eric Robertson

A coalition of advocates are battling Mayor Frank Jordan's plan to put General Assistance recipients to work sweeping city streets.

The mayor would use up to $5 million to pay supervisors to oversee hundreds of unpaid, part-time street cleaners working off their G.A. grants.

The Homeless Task Force, and The Tenderloin Housing Clinic are among those opposing the plan. They say that Jordan's proposal would waste city funds and not help people get off public assistance.

A public hearing on the issue is tenatively set for March 24. A protest rally is to take place beforehand. For information call the S.F. Coalition on Homelessness at 346-3740.

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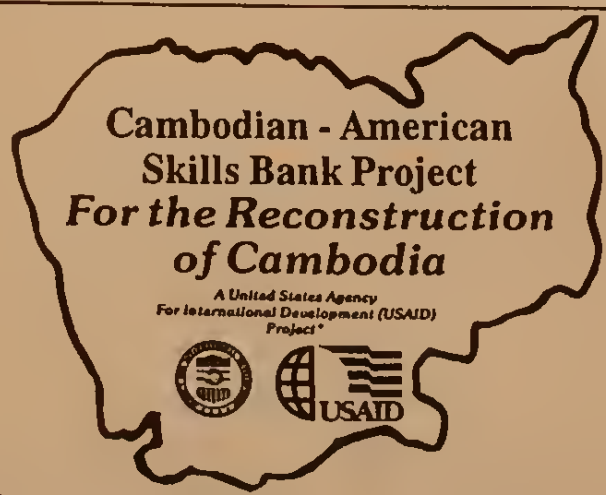

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Newcomers Seeking English Skills Face Long Waits and Jammed Classrooms

by Suzanne Rostler

Jose Moreno came to the Tenderloin from Mexico in search of steady work and a better life. But after four years in San Francisco, Moreno, 21, speaks only enough English to get by as a dishwasher in a Fisherman's Wharf restaurant, earning $250 a week to help support his family of eight.

Moreno said he knows that improving his life both economically and socially largely depends on being proficient in English.

"I want to learn English to work at a better job and be able to exist in San Francisco," said Moreno.

Moreno, who managed to enroll in a beginning-level English as a Second Language (ESL) class at the Alemany Campus of City College on Eddy Street, is one of the lucky ones. Alemany, which offers ESL and vocational ESL (VESL) classes to adults ages 18 and older, has a 900-person waiting list for the beginning-level classes alone.

Despite a burgeoning number of immigrants in the Tenderloin and the state like Moreno, ESL classes throughout the neighborhood and California remain overcrowded, underfunded, and simply unable to provide services to the number of people who want to learn.

"If these people are not given the opportunity to learn, they will find it very difficult to integrate into society, find employment and become productive," said Louella Lee, executive director of the Vietnamese Youth Development Center, 300 Ellis St., an organization offering ESL classes to limited English speakers, aged 17 to 21. "This has very serious implications for their future," said Lee.

Given the growing number of non-English speakers in San Francisco and less space in the city's ESL classes, the future looks bleak. Statistics for 1990 at the Alemany campus show that 99 percent of the student body was comprised of immigrants; 33 percent were refugees. The majority of students—52 percent—lived in the Civic Center and North of Market neighborhoods. And of the 42 percent who were employed while attending classes, 78 percent earned $10,000 or less annually.

Educators agree that the bulk of the responsibility to teach ESL falls on public schools since the smaller community-based teaching programs are not equipped to handle the volume of students needing classes. But increasing numbers of community colleges are finding that they, too, are unable to accommodate the growing demands of the neighborhood.

Photo: Phil Head

Frank Chong, dean of Alemany College on Eddy Street, says the public college has a 900-person waiting list for English as a Second Language classes.

"We just cannot serve as many people as we'd like," said Frank Chong, dean of Alemany. "The college reached its cap on the money allocated for ESL classes by the state, and there are no additional funds despite an increase in the number of students."

The result is that classrooms at Alemany have become jammed with students from a wide spectrum of ethnic backgrounds. The size and linguistic diversity of the classroom make it impossible for the teacher to focus attention on any one student.

"It's insane," said Denise Selleck, an ESL teacher at Alemany, whose beginning-level classes have enrolled as many as 60 students. "People at that level have so many needs, you just can't reach them all," she said.

As the size of classes increases, the quality of the classroom experience declines. "If the goal is for these people to become productive residents of the country, it's just not happening," said Selleck.

Because so many students are not getting the individual attention they need, Selleck said, they either stay in the system longer or simply drop out.

Nancy O'Sullivan, director of the YMCA literacy program, agrees that individual attention is a key to learning English. "The community college system is harsh and impersonal," she said. "With a multiethnic class at a beginning level with up to 40 students in a classroom, you just can't get real communication going."

The YMCA ESL classes, which average 12 students and are open only to Cantonese and Spanish-speaking adults, are part of a program to help immigrants understand and adapt to American life. Before each class, the students are divided by ethnic group for a cultural orientation in their native language where they hold casual discussions and learn about American customs and traditions. Afterward, the groups reassemble for a class in ESL.

"We focus individual attention on students and help them not only to learn English, but to build their self-esteem," said Jamie Ramos, a bilingual ESL teacher.

Like the YMCA's adult literacy program, Refugee Transitions, a home-based education project, teaches ESL to immigrants as part of a broader understanding of American culture. Sixty percent of its students are Tenderloin residents. Its waiting list has 25 people on it, which can have people waiting for up to three months to enroll in a class.

"Our curriculum is based on learning life skills," said Bryan McGowan, executive director of Refugee Transitions. "We try to increase self-sufficiency through language."

McGowan said that waiting lists are a reality for any community college system, and that many people who participate in the Refugee Transitions program are reluctant to take classes through the public education system.

One reason, McGowan said, is the government's linking community college sponsored ESL classes, which rely on federal aid, to the move toward employment. Although they want to learn English, many refugees are not ready to leap into the American job market and therefore stop attending class altogether. Others, he said, have gone so long without learning English that they have learned to get by, in whatever way they can, without it.

Many immigrants will remain isolated from much of society and trapped in entry-level jobs if they do not learn, say educators.

"It's a survival thing," said Tuyen Nguyen, a volunteer coordinator with Refugee Transitions. "You can't improve your life here without knowing English."

Photo: Phil Head

Homeless people and those who live in their cars enjoy a break in February's wet weather to get a bag of free groceries, health care, and dry blankets and clothes from the roving health care team, Street Outreach Services. The stormy weather caused the death of two homeless men and led to more colds and health problems among those living on the streets.

Rainy Weather Takes Its Toll on Homeless People

by Julie Scheff

John Henry Brown was in bad shape when he arrived at San Francisco General Hospital. He had become sick after a few nights of being soaked by rain while sleeping near railroad tracks in the Bayview area of the city, and was hospitalized for three days with lung problems.

"I was a mess," explained Brown, a 60-year-old man with a frosty white beard. "I would have been dead if I hadn't gotten some help."

In addition to colds, pneumonia, and other health problems, February's chilly, wet weather also caused the death of at least two homeless persons. On Jan. 23 Ronald "Buzzard" Williams died from exposure in Golden Gate Park. (See story on page 3.)

"There's a lot of people with the flu and bronchitis," said Allen Meyer, outreach coordinator for Street Outreach Services—a roving health care and outreach team. He, another outreach worker, and a health professional distribute bedrolls, sleeping bags, and dry clothes to people living on the street.

After homeless people receive treatment at a hospital, they are often released back onto the streets.

Days after his release from SFGH, Brown was back under a gray sky and drizzling rain. He carried a bedroll wrapped in a plastic tarp that he had thrown over his shoulder.

His sleeping plans for the night were uncertain. He had attempted to dry his rain-soaked blankets on some bushes, but the blankets were still damp.

"I'll try to get into a doorway someplace," he said. "Or maybe I'll sleep under a freeway overpass."

Brown said he slept out in the rain because he was discouraged about getting into the the city's shelters.

"I saw so many people being turned away so I didn't try anymore," said Brown.

The ranks of those turned away from the city's shelters swelled during the rainy season. Between Feb. 1 and Feb. 20, 127 people were turned away from the Multiservice Center South at Fifth and Bryant streets, according to Tracy Bishop, office manager at the shelter. The 200-bed center is one of the city's two multiservice centers.

"All the shelters are totally full and are turning people away," said Meyer of Street Outreach Services. "Some people sleep in doorways, under freeway overpasses, anywhere.

"Part of the problem is that even though the police have tried to be somewhat more compassionate in the bad weather, they [homeless people] are still moved along," added Meyer.

"We're supposed to be assisting homeless people and our primary focus is their health needs," said Meyer, whose one full-time staffer, himself and volunteer medical professionals see as many as 200 homeless people a week at soup kitchens, homeless encampments, and under freeway overpasses. "Sometimes what we're attempting to do is an exercise in futility, when what people really need is housing."

Since recent publicity about Williams' death, there's been an outpouring of donations. Ray Masterson of the Coalition on Homelessness said he has received 30 tons of donations of clothing and sleeping bags, some of which he donated to Street Outreach Services.

The federal government's Logistics Office donated 500 sleeping bags to COH and North Face, an outdoors equipment retailer, contributed coats from its annual coat drive.

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Parents, Kids, and Schools Confront Problems for Cambodian Students

by Sophath Pak

Some Cambodian parents in the Tenderloin whose children have been attending San Francisco public schools for as long as 15 years have neither seen a report card nor been aware of its significance.

At least not until Samol Tan, a teacher's assistant at Francisco Middle School, sat down at the Tenderloin's Cadillac Hotel last month with 80 Cambodian parents to explain in Khmer the grades and attendance records that are shown on the cards.

"Before, when the report card arrived in the mailbox, the parents passed it on to the children and the children just threw it away or hid it," said Tan.

Tan was one of the speakers at the Feb. 8 meeting called by the San Francisco Unified School District to address adjustment problems among Cambodian students.

Poverty and language barriers conspire to make school more difficult for Cambodian students. While the school district does not keep statistics on Cambodian dropout rates, the district said that between 15 percent to 17 percent of what the school district calls "non-white" students—mostly Indochinese—dropped out of school between June 1987 and June 1991. That is about 2 percent higher than for students citywide. Anecdotal evidence suggests dropout rates may be even higher.

Tan is also one of two Cambodian teacher's aids who have been tutoring Cambodian students since the school district started the Title 7 Excel Program in March 1990—a supplementary education program for Cambodian and Russian students funded by the federal government. Through the program, 150 Cambodians aged five to 17 have received tutoring and counseling at five schools—one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools.

Corazon Ponce, coordinator of the Title 7 project, said the program is designed to teach the children English and about their heritage. Many Cambodian children are raised speaking Khmer and have a loose grasp of English, according to Ponce.

Photo: Phil Head
A young Cambodian listens in on the meeting beween city school district officials and Cambodian parents and students.

Ponce explained that the program has hired two Cambodian paraprofessionals to work in the classrooms to translate for newcomer students and to teach Cambodian children to read and write in their native language.

Ken You, a Cambodian teacher's assistant at Sir Francis Drake in Hunters Point, said his elementary school has 115 Cambodian youth enrolled. He is a teacher's aid in regular classrooms and teaches Cambodian lessons on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. He said some of his Cambodian students can now read and write in Cambodian. "There's a lot more they should learn about Cambodia. Discipline and good behavior, for example, play a very important role in Cambodian families," said Ken. "Traditionally families are very happy if children obey their rules at home."

But life in America has changed all the rules at home between parents and their children, said Ken. Here children speak English while their parents do not, and children who want to adjust to a new life often reject their parents authority and traditions.

Phin Ros, a Cambodian parent who lives on Eddy Street, brought up a number of concerns to one Cambodian leader after the meeting. Ros asked why the number of "bad" children are growing so fast and why it seems Cambodian parents cannot discipline their children without being accused of child abuse by teachers and their children's schools. In Cambodia, a paddling was considered a normal means of punishment.

Professor Khataya Um of the University of California at Berkeley Political Science Department advised Cambodian parents who brought up similar concerns to learn new methods of discipline.

But many Cambodian parents say their influence with their children is limited because of language barriers.

"I feel very sorry every time one of my children asks me to help them do their homework," said Voeun Roeurn, who shares a Leavenworth street studio apartment with his six children. But Roeurn can't speak English, he said, and doesn't understand any of their homework.

Roeurn is not alone. Many other Cambodian parents in the United States lack basic English and basic schooling even in their own language. "In Cambodia, most of these people never had a chance to go to school at all," said Sreng Kuoch, a Cambodian worker at the Vietnamese Youth Development Center. In America, they are desperate to learn English, but are still struggling to speak the language, said Kuoch.

Meanwhile, they have less command over their children than they would like. For example, one parent who attended the SFUSD meeting, said that his 14-year-old son left for school every morning and came home every afternoon, but did not actually go to school for three months. The father, who asked that his name not be used, did not know about his son's truancy from school until he got a telephone call from the school.

"I was so upset after I heard that happened," he said. "But when I talked to my son he told me that he doesn't want to go to school any more because other students have threatened him with violence."

Many of the Cambodian youth who have dropped out of school and hang out at the Tenderloin Recreation Center have had similar experiences with violence and intimidation at school, according to Jon Canapary, recreation director at the St. Boniface Church site.

"They get picked on because they're smaller," Canapary said. "A lot of times they say they get jumped on at school."

Bonnie Burgum, principal of Sir Francis Drake, asked for cooperation from parents and teachers to tackle these problems.

"We are trying very hard to solve the problems between schools and parents," said Burgum, noting the challenges Cambodian students and their parents face: the language barrier and the distance students must travel to get to school. Burgum said most of her Cambodian students are bused from the Tenderloin.

"Beside the language barrier, the distance is also another problem for us," said Burgum. Last year, in order to get all parents who live far away to come to her school to participate in a special event, Burgum rented a school bus to drive the parents to the school. This year she would like to do it again, "but we have no more funding," Burgum said.

Rivalries Between Dealers Heat Up on the Streets

continued from page 1

Since that stabbing, there have been at least five other violent clashes over territory in the lower Tenderloin between drug dealers, according to TJ and other street sources.

Although Kowalski said he had no knowledge of dealer-on-dealer fights over territory, Morris said that officers from the task force came into the park to investigate the stabbing within 30 minutes after it happened.

"It wasn't just the regular beat cops either," Morris recalled. "They were cops I'd never seen before." Morris and others were questioned by the police officers, who were looking for witnesses to the stabbing and anybody who might have been involved in the fight.

Photo: Phil Head
Jones Street is being struggled over by the drug dealers who do business on its corners.

"There are snitches out here who'll rat on God," TJ said, "so I don't know how the rollers [police] don't know what went down, especially since they were on the scene."

The violence started when the parking lot at the corner of Golden Gate Avenue and Jones Street was razed to make way for the construction of low-income housing. The drug dealers who had staked out the parking lot as their territory were forced to move.

Unlike the pre-election police sweeps which temporarily forced drug dealers from the United Nations Plaza, the loss of the parking lot was permanent.

"We all know the deal behind the rollers cleaning out the plaza," said TJ. "The cops didn't panic nobody. Jordan was running for mayor, so the beat cops had to do something to make their ex-boss look good."

Photo: Phil Head
Traffic on Jones Street—autos, pedestrians, and some people trafficking in drugs.

Not long after the election was over, the drug dealers returned to U.N. Plaza.

The dealers from the parking lot were "taken in" by dealers who used the corner and sidewalk directly across the construction site—dramatically increasing the number of dealers there.

The construction brought dozens of workers, expensive heavy equipment, and a heightened police presence to the area, which, according to TJ, caused those dealers to abandon their territory.

"All of that hard work by honest people put more light on them than they could stand," Morris quipped, and then added, "They [the drug dealers] didn't evaporate into thin air."

When that group of dealers moved from Jones Street and Golden Gate Avenue, TJ said, "the rollers wasn't about letting them move down toward Market. The only way the rollers let them move was deeper up into the 'Loin into somebody else's spot."

Morris cautions that if such incidents go unchecked, the dealer-on-dealer attacks could escalate into a turf war.

TJ speculates that—as a way of controlling the drug problem—the police are content with letting the street dealers "butcher each other."

"If that is the case," he said, "a bunch of innocent people could get hurt or killed."

Have You Lost A Loved One to AIDS?

UC San Francisco researchers are seeking women and men who have lost a loved one to AIDS to participate in a nationwide study. The study could help researchers design and implement programs to help people cope with AIDS-related deaths.

Subjects will be asked to complete a confidential questionnaire—which can be filled out at home and returned postage-paid to researchers at UCSF—about their experiences in dealing with the AIDS-related death of a loved one.

Open to both men and women, regardless of HIV status. People of color are especially encouraged to participate.

To participate call, toll free:
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Cambodia's Fragile Peace Shaken by Cease-Fire Violations, Terrorism

continued from page 1

on the verge of publicly declaring Phan's intent to run in the 1993 national elections mandated by the Paris Accords.

Long's assassination—news of which was not uncovered for several days—sent a shock wave through the capital. Ironically, at the same time that Long was being driven to the outskirts of Phnom Penh and killed, Prince Sihanouk was welcoming United Nations Special Envoy Yasushi Akashi at the recently refurbished Royal Palace.

Akashi had just been appointed by the U.N. to head up the Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), a yet-to-arrive team of as many as 20,000 civilian and military personnel who are to administer key governmental ministries, monitor the cease-fire, and conduct democratic elections.

So far only a small U.N. advance team of several hundred has arrived in Cambodia, with little power or visibility during the demonstrations against the Khmer Rouge and government corruption late last year and the current cease-fire violations. Akashi pledged to push for speedy approval of an initial $200 million for UNTAC operation, whose total cost could eventually be as much as $1 billion (U.S. dollars).

Sihanouk serves as president of the Supreme National Council (SNC), whose role is to represent Khmer sovereignty until elections are held. By ceding leadership of the political faction he previously headed to his son Prince Ranariddh, Sihanouk has tried to play a neutral role with all four factions, which include the current Phnom Penh government, Ranariddh's faction, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), and the Khmer Rouge.

Photo: Sara Colm

Two soldiers guard a mine field in the Cambodian countryside. The country is dotted with mines that kill or maim innocent people each month.

The Khmer Rouge are responsible for the deaths of more than 1 million Cambodians during their four-year regime that ended with the December 1978 invasion by Vietnamese troops.

Praised by Western diplomats and high-level relief workers for keeping the fragile accord's unwilling partners together as long as he has, Sihanouk is the first to admit it has not been easy.

The 70-year-old monarch—who returned to Phnom Penh last November after more than a 20 year absence—was visibly upset as he recounted to Akashi the news of the recent shelling in Kompong Thom.

"All of the factions have promised to abide 100 percent by the provisions of the peace agreement and not return to war, but the fact is we are facing clashes every week," Sihanouk said.

Sihanouk attributed the cease-fire violations and most of the problems within the SNC to the longstanding distrust between the Phnom Penh government and the Khmer Rouge.

"They listen to me but continue to hate each other and mistrust each other," Sihanouk said.

Western observers and Cambodian residents of Phnom Penh describe an even more complicated scenario. They say the mistrust lies not only between the Phnom Penh government and the Khmer Rouge, but that there are splits within the KPNLF as well as the Phnom Penh government, which is wracked with corruption and instability.

Facing the prospect of not having employment following the elections, many civil servants are frantically trying to squeeze the last bit of money out of side deals, which for years have supplemented their meager salaries—equivalent to $5 to $10 (U.S. dollars) per month.

In addition, many soldiers from all four factions have not seen a paycheck in more than three months. There is little to gain from surrendering their arms and regrouping in "cantonment" areas where the only employment available might be the dangerous task of clearing land mines from the countryside. Many of the soldiers are now heading for the hills to profit from banditry or the booming logging and gem mining industries.

Free Elections, Free Press Discussed

The SNC got off to a rocky start after it was forced to cancel its first meeting slated to be held in Cambodia on Nov. 21, 1991, when angry demonstrators nearly lynched SNC member Khieu Samphan, a Khmer Rouge leader, upon his arrival in Phnom Penh.

Subsequent SNC meetings were canceled in late December when hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets again to protest governmental corruption. After several officials' homes were destroyed and a police station was burned, the military was called in to quell the rioting demonstrators—a move that resulted in more violence and at least six deaths.

After the December unrest, the Phnom Penh government banned further demonstrations, temporarily closed all schools and universities, and imposed a curfew.

Finally on Dec. 30, under heavy security and with large portions of the city blocked off, the SNC was able to convene in Phnom Penh with Khieu Samphan in attendance.

SNC meetings held since then have produced few concrete results or have been boycotted altogether by key members of the council. But at a special Jan. 14 session, SNC members agreed to permit political parties and a free press, and discussed trade unions and human rights, according to Western observers.

Two days later—Jan. 16—the Phnom Penh government released 290 political prisoners and prisoners of war from T-3, the central prison in the capital—the first prisoners to be freed as specified by the Paris Accords.

In mid-January, December's civil unrest seemed the distant past and the country enjoyed calmer times. The capital was buoyed by the international attention brought by visits from UNTAC's Akashi and by Indonesian Prime Minister Ali Alatas—one of the key architects of the Paris Accords.

A Cambodian human rights organization—confident that they had the backing of the U.N. and SNC—announced its formation on Jan. 19 and members of Ung Phan's "Democratic Society Party for Freedom" prepared to publicly declare their candidacy in the 1993 elections. Phan is a recently released political prisoner.

In a government shakeup in May 1990, Phan, then minister of transport, and six other government officials were sent to prison for 17 months for trying to start a pro-democracy party.

"At the beginning of 1990 I had begun to see that the Khmer people and government didn't have true independence," said San Pheap, one of those who went to prison with Ung Phan. (San Pheap is not his real name.)

Photo: Doug Niven

Prince Sihanouk greets one of 290 political prisoners released in January from a Phnom Penh prison.

"In terms of human rights, there was nothing," said Pheap. "There has also been a lot of corruption and illegal pressure on local people, such as dragging them off to be drafted into the armed forces. Many people are so poor, while the people in official branches are getting richer and richer because they squeeze the money out of people's pockets. In terms of the economic system, the communist system simply doesn't work in Cambodia."

The crackdown on Phan's and Pheap's party coincided with the dismissal of liberal newspaper editor Khieu Kanharith, who edited the official weekly paper *Kampuchea*.

Many observers view the shakeup as a power play between the Phnom Penh government's Prime Minister Hun Sen—who had slowly been initiating liberal reforms—and conservative hardliner Chea Sim, president of the National Assembly and former head of the much-feared Interior Ministry, which oversees the police and public security.

"My sacking was like a warning shot that every journalist or newspaper should not go so far," Kanharith said recently. "The conservative group took Ung Phan's [1990 efforts to form a pro-democracy party] to wipe out most of the liberal people. Even in parliament now, the members have become more cautious and don't talk so openly."

Detention in a Dark Cell

Arrested the day after his wife gave birth to their fourth child, Pheap spent his first 90 days in jail shackled in a filthy, dark cell with little ventilation. His wife did not know where he had been taken and was prohibited from visiting him for three months.

"After I was arrested people came to my house asking for money from my wife and threatening her," Pheap said. "Some said I had been executed, others said I had been taken by plane to Vietnam. Some said that if she gave them money they could take her to see me. To her it was torture and harassment."

Pheap said he was never physically abused in prison, although he was frequently verbally harassed and interrogated about his involvement with the opposition party.

Since his release last October, Pheap said he is now focused on outlining a progressive party platform.

"I'm hoping there will be one true democratic party elected by the people," he said. "Within the last 20 years there have been many political parties claiming a democratic system, but they have their own version of democracy."

Phan, Pheap, and the five others arrested with them were released from prison as a result of the signing of the Paris Accords. The assassination of Tea Bun Long and attempted killing of Ung Phan has put the brakes on the dissident group's electoral bid. Fearing for their lives, most of the members of the party have gone into hiding or have not left their homes since the attacks. Several are quietly investigating the possibility of obtaining political asylum from Western diplomatic missions.

The Phnom Penh government's official reaction was to condemn the shootings and create a new National Security Ministry to counter terrorist attacks. Western observers are skeptical about the extent to which dissident leaders will actually be protected. Many feel that adding a new division of the Interior Ministry will not only bolster Chea Sim's power, but will enable that ministry to avoid full UNTAC scrutiny.

Khmer Rouge Strength

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge benefit from the splits within the other factions, observers say. While the Khmer Rouge won't win an election, they are in position to regain control of the country, commented the head of a Western relief organization in Phnom Penh. Their strategy, he said, will be to emphasize that they are the most strongly nationalistic and anti-Vietnamese group.

Another factor in their favor, he added, is that unlike all the other factions, the Khmer Rouge are not corrupt.

"The big problem of Cambodia will not come in the near future," the aid official said. "There will be a lot of attention on this country now. But when the U.N. pulls out, then the real problems start. They haven't solved any of the social, political, or economic problems that made the Khmer Rouge experience possible 20 years ago. The situation now is very similar—a lot of corruption and hatred for foreigners—mainly the Vietnamese."

Sihanouk also sees growing support for the Khmer Rouge. "In the countryside, they have had some success," Sihanouk said. "It seems they are honest with the peasants."

The Khmer Rouge do not resort to banditry because of the wealth they have accumulated from their control of the gem mining trade in the western province of Pailin, Sihanouk said.

"They help the peasants with irrigation schemes, rather than stealing their cattle," he said. "It seems they have made some reforms to win the hearts and minds of the Cambodian people."

The cease-fire violations and the climate of fear in Phnom Penh created by the recent round of political violence has caused many to pin their hopes on the arrival of UNTAC to set the stage for democratic elections.

"There needs to be a level playing field," said a senior American diplomat in Phnom Penh. "There needs to be [voter] education and an international presence throughout the country to monitor whether the people have been intimidated. Sure it's not going to be perfect—but no election is."

Before elections can be held, some 375,000 Khmer in Thai refugee camps must be repatriated. But before the refugees can return, the country must be cleared of as many as 2 million land mines that continue to claim as many as 300 victims a month.

Focus on AIDS

S.F. Network Ministries Offers Care, Counseling

by Julie Scheff

When Rev. Glenda Hope, director of the San Francisco Network Ministries, first started her AIDS advocacy in 1987, there was not a single AIDS service in the Tenderloin to help people who faced great risk of contracting the HIV virus.

Since 1988 the Tenderloin has hosted the highest concentration of intravenous drug users in the city—one of the groups most vulnerable to contracting AIDS.

"We honor people who don't appear in obituary columns. It makes a difference to people to know they are not abandoned by the church and community."

-Rev. Penny Sarvis
S. F. Network Ministries

Through perserverance and political muscle flexing, Rev. Hope made sure that the city opened up its first storefront AIDS service in the Tenderloin: the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, 187 Golden Gate Ave. It finally opened after much footdragging by the city in 1990.

Since then the center has staffed educational street fairs at Boeddeker Park, provided educational outreach to thousands of people, and coordinated services to make sure gaps in AIDS assistance in the Tenderloin are filled.

The group supplies AIDS prevention items—condoms and bleach—to local agencies, including the North of Market Planning Coalition and the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness.

The Tenderloin Resource Center's full time outreach worker wends his way through the neighborhood's parks and residential hotels passing out bottles of bleach, condoms, and informational brochures. A full-time case manager ensures that clients' rents are paid and that they collect their welfare checks.

Looking back on her years of AIDS activism, Hope said there have been some improvements in care to HIV-positive people. "We have a lot more services now that we didn't have at the beginning," said Hope. "But we don't have near the number of services we need, especially in terms of housing and long-term care.

"I make a plea for everyone to become involved so we can stop the spread of this disease. I want to encourage everybody to be tested," Hope added. "Call 431-7476, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, to find out where you can get anonymous testing. You can give it to somebody you love without even knowing you've got it yourself."

Photo: Phil Head

Rev. Glenda Hope and Rev. Penny Sarvis, pioneering AIDS workers in the Tenderloin, developed a street-wise ministry to People Living With AIDS.

●●●

Also operating out of the San Francisco Network Ministries is Rev. Penny Sarvis, who has for the past four years run a ministry for HIV-infected people living in the Tenderloin.

When Sarvis enters the Ambassador Hotel, where she visits about 10 people a week, she greets everyone by name, then climbs up the stairs for her first visit.

Every week Sarvis visits 25 people in their rooms in hotels around the neighborhood, providing emotional and spiritual support. She has also coordinated support groups for AIDS survivors and performed memorial services for those who have passed away so they don't just "slide into obscurity," she said.

Sarvis helped launch a drop-in chaplaincy of seven clergy who visit six days a week at the Ambassador Hotel on Mason Street or at hospitals when residents fall ill. In their meetings, they talk about everything from baseball to the weather to life and death, said Sarvis.

Sarvis is committed to this kind of work, she says, because of the tremendous difference it makes in people's lives. "Some people from the Ambassador don't have anyone else. We honor people who don't appear in obituary columns. It makes a difference to people to know they are not abandoned by the church and community," she said.

Sarvis' work—full-time with no pay—has also taught her important lessons about the AIDS epidemic.

"I've learned how frustrating the systems are, especially if you want medical care—you have to be on welfare," said Sarvis. "I've learned to respect people's spirituality and their need to come to terms with families and friends as they approach the end of their lives."

Some AIDS Treatments Called Hoaxes

continued from page 1

protect users from being infected with the HIV virus. "This is very dangerous because someone can use it and [still] contract AIDS," said Walsh.

Other AIDS advocates describe treatments ranging from a machine that administers electric currents to counter HIV to another purporting to read the body's quantum vibrations and then formulate the correct homeopathic remedy for the patient.

Ozone therapy was recently a popular treatment which AIDS patients believed held promise. It involves machines imported from Germany that deliver ozone gas enemas.

John James of *AIDS Treatment News*, a newsletter on experimental AIDS treatments, said that researchers for Dr. Conant monitored the T-cell counts of patients before, during, and after ozone gas enema treatments.

James said the researchers "found nothing at all. No harm. No good."

Clint Hockenberry of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel said that harmlessness isn't always the case.

"There have been a lot of treatments pushed forward that simply have no medical support, and may kill people," he said.

An example of such dangerous treatments is *hyperthermia*, in which a doctor removes the patient's blood, heats it, and then returns it to the body with the HIV virus supposedly killed off. James said he knows of two fatalities directly caused by this treatment.

Walsh said fraudulent treatments may also chemically disrupt conventional medications or prompt a patient to discontinue them.

The problem for patients trying to decide what treatments to accept is compounded by the cost and effectiveness of AIDS medications approved by the FDA. They are expensive, have severe side effects, and do not cure or even halt the progression of AIDS.

Activists, doctors, and patients coping with AIDS say that cumbersome FDA approval procedures and pharmaceutical companies' insistence on researching only those drugs that promise high profits have limited the range of approved AIDS treatments available.

Fraudulent treatment schemes often have warning signs, say advocates. James urges AIDS patients to be wary of any treatment that stresses secrecy—a secret formula, a secret drug. "If it's secret, if it's very expensive, if a pseudoscience is used, telling people they should not do orthodox or established treatments," he said then the treatment should be avoided.

"The traditional quack doctor likes to isolate the patient from other sources of information," James added. "This is the opposite of the AIDS community, which makes referrals to nonprofit sources of information and buyers clubs [for purchasing experimental AIDS drugs in quantity]."

"Watch out if the clinic is outside the country in order to escape the scrutiny of the FDA," James added.

According to Walsh, "A lot of the clinics in Mexico, which have only treated cancer before, are now switching over to AIDS. The Mexican government will not allow Mexican nationals to be treated in these clinics. It will allow the clinics to operate, but won't allow Mexican citizens to go to them."

The phony clinics, Walsh added, "will string people along until they're near death. Then they say you are one of the 5 percent for whom the treatment doesn't work."

Walsh said medications or treatments sold through multilevel marketing, or pyramid, schemes are suspect. "There's very little control over how the representatives present the product," he said. "Companies sometimes encourage representatives to exaggerate the value of the product by giving them nebulous or unscientific information."

When they are caught, Walsh added, the companies deny that they encourage representatives to exaggerate.

Tenderloin Health Outreach's Rowniak said that when considering any AIDS treatment "what's important is to look at who is making the money from this. Who is going to gain? See who is promoting it. Is it just people who want to make money or people who have AIDS themselves?"

Walsh said the State AIDS Task Force is concerned about treatment promoters "who are motivated by immense amounts of greed. They won't spend a penny on safety.

"On the task force, we try to supply people with information," he said. "We say, 'Ask questions. What clinical trials do they have? Where does the information come from?' If they say it is a cure, don't believe it."

Herbs and nutritional supplements are among the products which could offer potential in treating AIDS. The newsletter put out by the AIDS education organization Project Inform states, "there are some herbal and natural products which have shown anti-viral properties . . . . The challenge of using herbal and natural products is knowing which ones actually offer real promise in the body."

At Vibrant Health Vitamin Center, a health food and vitamin shop in the Castro District, owner Don Olfus encourages HIV-positive customers to adopt a "good general health plan" combined with vitamins, Chinese herbs, and PCM-4, a blend of Siberian ginseng and pork spleen extract which is claimed to boost T-cell counts.

At $100 for a 30-day supply, PCM-4 seems like a by-the-book scam. But James says buyers clubs are now stocking the product and he has heard "some generally good reports about it." Still, he said, "it is difficult to ascertain, and there is a large gray area. PCM-4 is in that gray area."

The gray area that many natural products inhabit allows some manufacturers to promote fraudulent products. Last year AIDS groups called attention to a product called Immune-Plus, advertised as an AIDS cure in the San Francisco *Sentinel* and *Bay Area Reporter* newspapers.

In fact, Immune-Plus is only a mixture of nutrients and aloe vera juice. The Federal Trade Commission investigated a complaint and banned Immune-Plus from being advertised.

Both newspapers now have policies to protect against fraudulent advertising. The *Sentinel* asks Project Inform to scrutinize questionable ads, and the *Reporter* will only run ads for drugs approved by the FDA, the American Medical Association, or the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

James said he doesn't believe fraud to be a pervasive problem, but he does think the practice is growing. "My impression is that in the beginning there was less fraud than one would expect because of denial of AIDS and fear of infection, to which quacks are not immune," he said. "But as the stigma and fear have reduced, some of the people selling dubious products have become involved in AIDS."

James added that the AIDS community is providing a good deal of information about legitimate treatments, allowing people to make more informed medical choices. "When somebody has a serious or terminal disease, we owe them a good deal of information to make the ultimate decision about their own treatment," he said.

FREE ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING SITES

- **Health Center #2**
  1301 Pierce St.,
  621-4858
  Mondays, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

- **St. Anthony Medical Clinic**
  105 Golden Gate Ave.
  241-8320
  Tuesdays, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

- **Glide Clinic**
  330 Ellis St.
  292-2260
  Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
  Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
  4th Sunday each month
  noon-2 pm.

Larkin Street Hosts Second Annual Tet Celebration

Dancing lions, firecrackers and fun—all part of the Tet Festival.

A martial arts expert gives a demonstration at Tet.

The day was sunny, the music was hot—she just had to dance.

Everyone dressed up in their best clothes for Tet.

Games of chance were also featured at the Tet Festival.

All wrapped up in balloons and ready to float above the crowd at the Tet Festival.

Photos by Beth Richardson

That lion was everywhere—the restaurants, the streets, and here in a shop on Larkin Street.

by Kathleen McCaulley and Sethy Keo

Exploding firecrackers, performers juggling fiery batons, and children wearing traditional Vietnamese costume were all part of the Tenderloin's second annual street festival celebrating Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

Thousands of people jammed the Larkin Street Tet Festival on Feb. 1 under a canopy of flags, both American and South Vietnamese, and clusters of yellow and red balloons—the colors of the former South Vietnamese flag. Tet organizers estimated the crowd at 10,000, but police put the crowd at only 1,000.

The celebration kicked off at 9 a.m. when Mayor Frank Jordan ignited a string of firecrackers. Throughout the rest of the day the echo of popping firecrackers, the thumping of drums, and the clanking of cymbals accompanied three lion dancers moving through the crowds.

The shimmying lion dancers brought New Year's greetings to merchants along Larkin Street who sponsored the event. According to Vietnamese folklore, the lions bring merchants prosperity and good luck for the new year.

On the main stage at the corner of Ellis and Larkin streets, the entertainment ranged from Vietnamese rock 'n' roll to Cambodian and Lao dance performances. The San Jose-based Seventeenth Parallel Band and Company belted out a repertoire which included the Beatles' "Ticket to Ride" and Vietnamese rock 'n' roll tunes.

Wearing sequined costumes, crowns, and other finery, actors of the Southern Vietnamese Theater company of San Jose brought their audience *Cai Loung*—a traditional Vietnamese folktale performed in operatic form. Tinny tones from ancient instruments, including the plucky sounds of the one-string *Dan Co* accompanied the actors' songs that told of a king seeking to reunite a fractured Vietnam.

The 38 booths that lined Larkin Street purveyed information on everything from a Vietnamese political party seeking to overthrow the communist government of Vietnam to a cosmetic surgeon—a former U.S. Navy doctor—who offered to mend war wounds.

Zoon Nguyen, a Tet organizer and staffer at the Mayor's Office of Community Development, called the festival a success, noting, "the Tet street fair is an opportunity to showcase the Vietnamese community's contributions to the revitalization of the local economy and to provide an opportunity for all people to come together in celebration and camaraderie."

Nguyen worked with more than 17 Tenderloin organizations to put on the day-long street celebration, including the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, the Vietnamese weekly Mo Magazine, and Refugee Transitions.

Three days after the celebration on Larkin Street was the official start of Tet, when the Tenderloin's Vietnamese businesses closed shop for the day, and the streets became littered with confetti-like red wrappers from exploding firecrackers. The din of firecrackers resounded in the Tenderloin during the three days and nights of the Tet holiday, beginning Feb 4.

Traditionally, on the first day of the new year, Vietnamese family members stay home and everyone is on their best behavior, believing that whatever a person does on this day will shadow them for the rest of the year.

"If you work, you have to work the whole rest of the year," said Tony Tranh, a Tet organizer and a staff member at the North of Market Planning Coalition. Prior to the New Year, families clean up their homes so that on the second and third days of Tet they can welcome family and friends for their holiday visits.

For children, Tet means receiving red envelopes of lucky money or Li Xi.

Thai Hoa, an 11-year-old who attended the Larkin Street Tet celebration, said his favorite parts of Tet was receiving lucky money, which he sends back to Vietnam to his grandparents.

Tran Kiem, 20, said that the Tet festival is an opportunity for "many different people to come together and learn about our culture. We can get closer."

Many fairgoers said they enjoyed this year's fair even more than last year's because it was twice last year's size. But they said it also recalled a celebration in their homeland that resounded through the streets and alleyways of the former South Vietnamese capital city, Saigon.

To recapture that atmosphere, Tet organizers hope to build on this year's successes.

"Who knows? Maybe next year we might expand the Tet celebration in the Tenderloin to four blocks," said Nguyen.

calendar

compiled by Dave Sanders

Sunday, March 1:

Tortilla Heaven: A reading of Luis Santeiro's "Our Lady of the Tortilla" will be presented by Latin American Theatre Artists, American Conservatory Theatre Playroom, 450 Geary St., 7 p.m. Will also be shown March 2, Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th St., 7 p.m. Donation: $3.

Portfolio Series: Two groups of work by contemporary Native American artists will be exhibited through May 9 at American Indian Contemporary Arts, 685 Market St., Ste. 250, Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 495-7600 for info. Free.

Monday, March 2:

Warrior: The documentary "Warrior, The Life of Leonard Peltier," the story of one man's odyssey through the criminal justice system, will be shown at the Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight St., 7 and 9:15 p.m. Will also be shown March 3, 7, and 9 p.m., and March 4, 2:15, 7, and 9 p.m. Admission: $5.50 and $4.50 general, $4.50 and $3.50 matinee.

Thursday, March 5:

Places and Changes: The pieces "Place" and "Sudden Changes" will be presented through March 7 by Liss Fain Dance, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., 8:30 p.m. Call 863-9834 for info. Admission: $10.

Services for Seniors: A discussion of various services for seniors will be held by the Senior Information and Referral Service, Salvation Army, 360 4th St., 10 a.m.-noon. Lunch will be served for $1.25 following the discussion. Free.

A character from EXITheatre's "Kaspar," a play about a boy who spent his childhood locked in a cellar. "Kaspar" opens March 19 and runs through March 30. Call 931-1094 for tickets.

EXITheatre presents "The Inner Circle" March 3, a play about teenage friendship and the AIDS crisis. The play is to be followed by an open forum discussion. Call 931-1094 for tickets.

Saturday, March 7:

AIDS Dance-A-Thon Bonanza: Dance your brains out at this fundraiser for AIDS service organizations! Register to collect donations from friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers to turn in at the dance. Call 392-9255 for info. Dance will be held at Fort Mason Ctr., 7 p.m.

Twice Over: The play "Twice Over," featuring a view of lesbianism through older women's eyes, will run through April 11 at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., Wed.-Sun., 8 p.m. Call 861-5079 for info. Admission: $11-$20.

Interactive Cathedral: A multi-media installation, "Black Screen Cathedral" encourages audience participation, so come be part of the process. Runs through April 19 at Performance Works, 110 McAllister St., Sat. and Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

New Lesbian Film: In anticipation of International Women's Day, lesbian cinema in all its wild variety will be featured at the Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission St., 8 p.m. Admission: $5 general, $3 students, seniors, and disabled.

Wednesday, March 11:

Cambodian Poetry: Tenderloin journalist and community leader Sophath Pak will read traditional Cambodian poetry in Khmer at the Cadillac Hotel Ballroom, 380 Eddy St., 7 p.m. Free.

Thursday, March 12:

Harmony and Movement: Seichi Tanaka and the S.F. Taiko Dojo will perform their blend of drums, percussion, and body movement at Fort Mason Art Ctr., Bldg. A, 8 p.m. Admission: $5 general, $4 students.

Friday, March 13:

Peer Counseling Training: A 12-series peer-counseling training will be held through May 29 at the Independent Living Resource Ctr., 70 10th St., Fri., 1:30-4:30 p.m. Participants must be current or former patients, clients, or consumers of mental health services. Call 863-0581 for info. Fee: $20 for materials.

Protest Hastings' Plans for the West Block: Join others in a rally to demand that Hastings include the Tenderloin community in its plans. Meet at the corner of Hyde and McAllister streets at 8:30 a.m. For information call 474-2164.

Sunday, March 15:

St. Patrick's Day Mass: A special mass will be held to celebrate the feast day of Ireland's patron saint. St. Patrick's Church, 756 Mission St., 9:30 a.m. Free.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: A parade featuring floats, bands, local dignitaries, and more will start from Market and Second sts., and wend its way to City Hall. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Thursday, March 19:

Health Care for Seniors: A discussion on health care for seniors will be held at the Salvation Army Ctr., 360 4th St., 10 a.m.-noon. Lunch will be served for $1.25 following the discussion. Free.

Animation by Women: A collection of films entitled "Women's Animation: An Historical Overview" will be featured at the S.F. Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St., 8 p.m. Admission: $5 general, $3 students, seniors, and disabled.

Friday, March 27:

African Rhythms: Atrican drummer S. Kwaku Daddy will perform at Old First Church, Van Ness Ave. and Sacramento St., 8 p.m. Admission: $8 general, $6 students and seniors.

Photo: Phil Head

Fox-Trot, Waltz, or Tango?: This couple danced alongside 150 other seniors in the auditorium of Old St. Mary's Church at the Senior Valentine's Day Dance Competition Feb. 19. The dance competition was sponsored by Self-Help for the Elderly.

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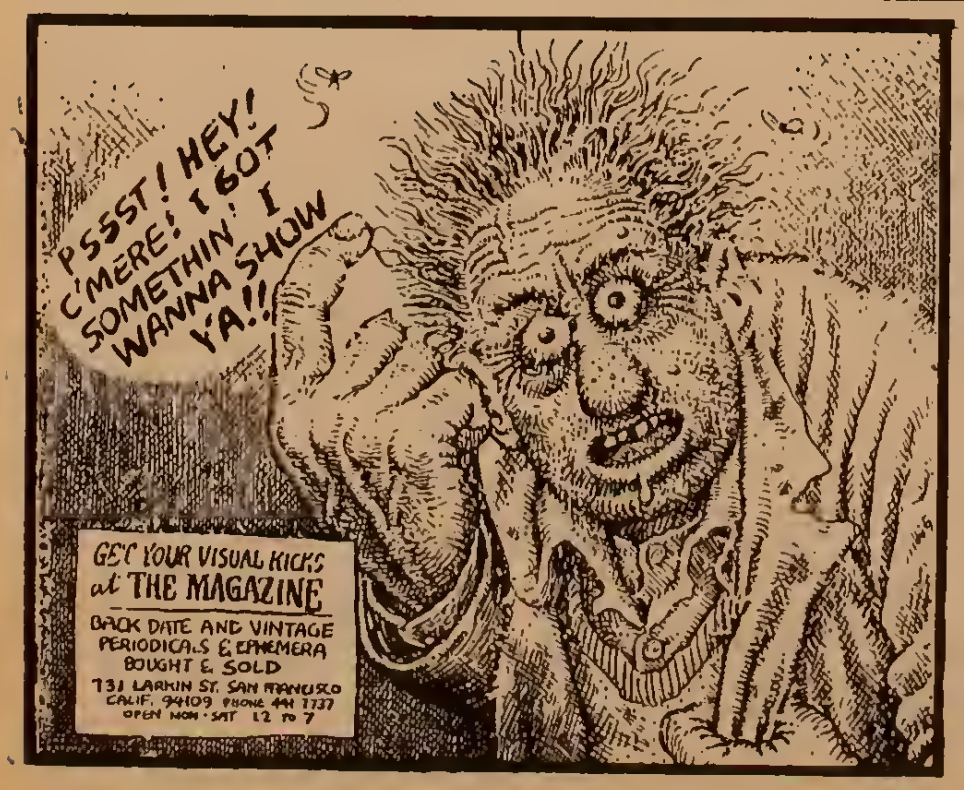

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Innovative university class

Students Get an Education in Homelessness

by Allison T. Chau

Whether waiting in a line for up to seven hours for food stamps, spending two hours on a park bench where homeless people congregate, or trying to apply for subsidized housing from a pay phone with a pocket full of quarters, students from around the Bay Area are getting an education in what it means to be homeless.

That doesn't sound like the usual curriculum at a university. Nevertheless, since 1988, about 100 students who have enrolled in the "Homelessness: A Public Health Issue" class at San Francisco State University (SFSU) have been required to hit the streets for classroom credits.

SFSU isn't the only university making homelessness part of its curriculum. Ten other colleges and universities around the bay—including Hastings College of the Law—are confronting homelessness in a variety of ways through the Bay Area Homelessness Program (BAHP). The program's students publish a newsletter, attend the "homelessness" class, experience homelessness on the streets, and have developed an innovative outreach program.

"I felt like a second-class citizen. People stared at me with either pity or disgust."

—Rebecca Gates, SFSU student, on "going homeless" for part of a day.

Bev Ovrebo, an associate professor of Health Education at SFSU, said the purpose of her class "Homelessness: A Public Health Issue" is to raise students' consciousness and to develop future leaders in the cause to end homelessness.

Photo: Phil Head

Two San Francisco State University Students work with a homeless woman to compile her resume. Volunteers with the Roving Resume Writers, an SFSU program, have produced 100 resumes and have seen five of their clients acutally land jobs.

Rebecca Gates, a social work major at SFSU and counselor at the Marin Housing Center, said Ovrebo's class opened her eyes during a field trip when she and her classmates went "homeless" for part of a day.

"I felt like a second-class citizen," she said. "People stared at me with either pity or disgust.

"This little boy came up to me and talked to me," Gates added. "But when his mother noticed him talking to me, she made him stop. It was just the fact that this little boy was pulled away from me by his mother."

Ovrebo has also developed "The Residential Hotel Neighborhood Game," which she teaches to her SFSU students, social service organizations, and students from other schools.

The game is similar to the board game "Monopoly" but laid out to resemble the Tenderloin, with a bank, property, and a jail, which players are sent to when they break the rules of the game. However, the community chest card reading "Pass Go; Collect $200" is absent. The object of the game is to stay alive and to collect as many "status cards" as possible and to avoid "stigma."

"The game looks at status and stigma as the key variables of our culture," said Ovrebo.

Caleb Buckley, a political science major at SFSU, described the different spin on the Monopoly game as being effective. "People realize: 'Oh my God, this could happen to me,'" she said.

Mike Chapman, a volunteer staffer at the Coalition on Homelessness, spoke to university students who are part of the BAHP at an "Advocacy Boot Camp" held at the University of San Francisco Feb. 13-17. He told the assembled 70 people that the best way to become a homeless advocate is by befriending a homeless person and not to taking "a quick hit on homelessness."

He suggested to the audience that when they go to sleep, to think about someone who has no bed, and to be thankful for having a roof overhead when many homeless people are lucky to have a bush overhead in a park somewhere.

Henry Ostendorf, another student of Ovrebo's, a staff member of BAHP and assistant editor of the program's newsletter "issue," has developed an innovative program called Roving Resume Writers, a nonprofit resume preparation service for homeless people.

Ovrebo is faculty advisor for Roving Resume Writers, whose volunteers meet with homeless people in a variety of sites to work on resumes.

"We work with people who never had resumes before. [Some] don't even know what it is," said Ostendorf, a design and industry major. "When we hear of someone getting a job, we're elated," he said, noting that most of the people, with whom the group works are not "job ready" because they have young children or have never had a job before.

Despite that, five of the homeless people with whom they have worked have landed jobs. One man got a job as a housekeeper, another who once did construction work at Disneyland just got a job in Kuwait sifting through wreckage left from the Persian Gulf War. So far, homeless people working with the 40 volunteer resume writers have produced more than 100 resumes.

Volunteer resume writers include college students, faculty, and staff members of BAHP.

"There's a student from a S.F. high school who is a regular volunteer, as well," said Michael Eaton, an SFSU graduate student in public administration and a BAHP staff member.

A wide range of experience and job skills is evident in a number of the resumes produced by the Roving Resume Writers and homeless people. One client lists 14 years of experience in carpentry. Another received his education at Westminster College in London. Another client hopes to work as a writer, director, or producer in the media field.

Roving Resume Writers chapters have opened at nine other universities across the nation. The local chapter coordinates their efforts with the United Way's Job Finder's Network, the Episcopal Sanctuary's job program, and the job training project at Glide Church.

To contact the Bay Area Homelessness Program, Roving Resume Writers, or "issue" newsletter, call 338-1938.

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We are looking for people who were in the SHARP study last year. **If you were in any of the clinics listed below** and participated in the SHARP study, please **call us** to schedule your follow-up interview. **Reimbursement provided.**

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A Phase II randomized study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of combination therapy with AZT and Intron A versus AZT alone in patients with asymptomatic to mildly symptomatic HIV infection.

For more information about these and other studies contact HIVCare Client Coordinatior Drew Catapano at (415) 775-4321, ext. 2512. HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memarial Hospital, 900 Hyde Street, San Francisco.

Frank Talk

by Frank Salet

I served as a senator in the California Senior Legislature (CSL) for nine years and I have discovered how little seniors know of the good friend they have in Sacramento.

State Senator Henry Mello (D-Santa Cruz) who penned the 1980 legislation that created CSL, is acknowledged as the "father of the California Senior Legislature." Art Agnos, then-assemblyman, proposed that a check off box appear on state income tax forms so taxpayers could donate a dollar from their returns to support CSL.

The first session of the CSL was convened in 1981. It is a non-partisan, volunteer organization of 40 Senators and 80 Assembly members—elected in March of each odd-numbered year. Any registered voter in California age 60 or older is eligible to vote in elections or run for office in the Senior Legislature.

Photo: Phil Head
Eddy Street Resident Frank Salet was a senator in the California Senior Legislature for nine years.

Photo: Phil Head
Moira Jackson is a CSL Senator and has worked with a wide variety of senior and political organizations.

Each October, the CSL convenes in Sacramento for several days and occupies the Capitol's Legislative chambers to hear testimony, debate issues, and vote upon Senior Legislative proposals.

The Senior Legislators don't stop there—they work closely with their state counterparts to see that those proposals are enacted into law.

Among the issues the CSL is currently working on include a Statewide Health Program, Long-Term Health Care, Exemptions from Prop. 13 for Seniors, a Drug Information Program, and Nutrition Program Funding.

CSL's federal proposals include Universal National Health Care and an SSI Cost-of-Living Adjustment. Significantly, about 75 percent of all CSL proposals are eventually enacted into law.

Local senior legislators include senators Moira Jackson and Andrew Gonzales, and assembly members Ella Romans, Isabel Neves, and Chuck Ayala—each of whom is currently serving a two-year term that began in March 1991.

Moira is a charter member of the CSL. She had held a seat on the San Francisco Commission on Aging, and now works with a senior service group up at St. Teresa's Church on Potrero Hill, as well as serving on the Advisory Committee to Legal Assistance to the Elderly.

Photo: Phil Head
Andrew Gonzales is a freshman senator in the CSL—he defeated Frank Salet a March 1991 campaign for his seat.

Moira has also been vice co-chair on the CSL's Joint Rules Committee—CSL's governing body—and says modestly, "I have had a couple of my proposals adopted by the State Legislature."

Andrew is a freshman senator and a fine legislator.

"The first session I attended was an intensive learning course in government," said Andrew. "We argued and fought, but it was a really good experience."

Andrew campaigned on the theme: "I may not know what I am getting into, but I promise my complete dedication."

And dedicated are all of the senior legislators working to make the state of California a better place for all of us.

I also tip my hat to Joyce Ream, the recently retired director of the San Francisco Commission on Aging, without whose help the CSL might not have been so effective over the last decade.

In this year's general election it is very important for seniors to state their case and support the issues that they will benefit from directly. Register to vote right away, and when election time comes up in November get out there and vote.

For more about the California Senior Legislature, write to CSL, 1020 Ninth St., Room 260, Sacramento, CA 95814.

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the tender side

by Chanthanom Ounkeo
and Sasha Ruda

Wedding Bells

Diana Wong, director of the Tenderloin Recreation Center, married Jeffrey Chin on Saturday, Feb. 8. Midge Wilson, director of the Bay Area Women's Resource Center was at the wedding as were many of the children who have played at the recreation center throughout the years. As for the bride? "She looked gorgeous," said Midge.

Walk That Walk

Come beat the pavement for a good cause at the annual Tenderloin Walkathon on April 12. Sign up now if you want to volunteer or walk the "Tenderloin Walkathon: Walk for Tenderloin Kids." The walkathon is a fundraiser for Bay Area Women's Resource Center and the Tenderloin Youth Advocates and helps support the Tenderloin Children's Arts Program—an after-school arts and craft program for youth aged five to 15 that operates out of four sites in the Tenderloin, including Boeddeker Park on Mondays. Call the Bay Area Women's Resource Center (474-2400) or the Tenderloin Youth Advocates (885-5929) for more information.

Short Poet

Yarrow, the adorable, doe-eyed 1-year-old son of 509 Cultural Center Curators Laurie Lazer and Darryl Smith is jabbering quite a bit, struggling to become the neighborhood's youngest poet. As of yet, however, his vocabulary is limited to the essentials.

Welcome to San Francisco!

Geary Street residents Somsy and Ounla Thepkaysone had a long-awaited welcoming party for Somsy's 19-year-old brother, Chanthalangsy Thavone, who arrived in San Francisco on New Year's Day. On his first trip outside his native Laos, Thavone has come the United States to attend college—the first student from Laos sponsored by Laotian Americans to be granted a student visa. Thavone is now studying English at Golden Gate University.

Visits Home

San Francisco Laotians are going back for visits to their homeland in ever increasing numbers, with many returning for the first time in more than 15 years. Tenderloin resident Saythong Vientiane has escorted four tours in the last year. A group of 36, many of them seniors, returned Feb. 12 after a three week stay.

Baby in the News

Congratulations to longtime Tenderloin residents Thongvanh and Savy Phasavath who gave birth to a baby girl last month.

End Poverty

The Campaign to Abolish Involuntary Poverty has been busy these days. Staff and volunteers just moved into a new office at 942 Market St., Room 708 and found itself a new director: Barbara Arms, who was one of the cofounders of the Tenderloin Self Help Center almost a decade ago. With the help of Arms, the organization has been making forays into the hinterland, gathering support for an Albuquerque, N.M., office and endorsements from that city's Unitarian Church Social Concerns' Committee and from the Help for the Homeless organization. The Campaign is also sponsoring a vigil fast to protest Governor Pete Wilson's proposed cuts in AFDC and other public assistance. Come support the vigil on March 4 at 9 a.m. on the steps of the Federal Building on Golden Gate Ave.

Chuck Burkhardt (left) working out with Heavyweight George Foreman at Newman's Gym, circa 1964.

Boxing History

Chuck Burkhardt, who was a boxing trainer back in the 1940s at Newman's Gym when it was located in the ballroom of the Cadillac Hotel, wants a Tenderloin property owner to donate some space on weekends for boxing lessons for Tenderloin youth.

A picture taken in 1964 at Newman's Gym showed Chuck posing with boxer George Foreman—that's right, the guy who knocked down Muhammed Ali. "We had a few boxing lessons for kids aged nine to 15 once a week on Saturday mornings when Billy Newman was alive," recalls Chuck of the late owner of the gym bearing his name.

"You have a different generation of kids today," says Chuck. "A lot of the kids—now you see them hanging around the streets and they don't want to go to school." Chuck reminds us, "Your youth of today are your citizens of tomorrow." Call Chuck at 621-4422.

Free Coffee & Sandwiches

The folks at Pasqua Coffee will be distributing free coffee and sandwiches on four successive Saturdays: Feb. 29 and March 7, 14, and 21, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at good old Boeddeker Park. Pasqua operates shops and stands in the downtown area and they appear to want to be good neighbors. Welcome!

Electric Buses

Folks are cheering the electrification of the 31 Balboa bus, which travels east on Eddy Street and west on Turk Street. Muni says the electrification will cut down on pollution and noise in the neighborhood. Muni hopes to have the bus running by June 20, according to Vera Haile, director of the North of Market Senior Services Center.

Happy Birthday, Phoebe

The irrepressible Phoebe Kreshner, turns 24 years old Feb. 29. Since she only celebrates her birthday every four years, she is actually 96 years old and still living independently in her Leavenworth Street apartment. She's a fine poet and regularly reads at the North of Market Senior Services Center.

Sobriety Club Fun

Talking about Tenderloin seniors. The North of Market Senior Sobriety Club, 291 Eddy St., hosts about 50 seniors a day for games and adventures. One of their newest projects will be a voter registration drive. Come and register and once you do, don't forget to vote in the November election.

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TL Dining Guide

AMERICAN

1. Family Inn - 505 Jones St. This restaurant really lives up to its name. A hearty full course meal includes hefty portions of homemade soup, salad, bread, a main entree, potatoes or rice, vegetables, dessert, and coffee or tea, for only $4.25. Breakfast is served all day, and sandwiches are made to order. Price range: $1.25-$4.25. Open Mon.-Sat., 7 a.m.-6 p.m. 771-5995.

ITALIAN

2. Polo's Stadium Club - 34 Mason St. Italian-American food served in a sports club atmosphere with thirteen 27" television sets and a 10-foot screen. Serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including specials such as stuffed pork chops and short ribs. Senior discounts offered. Price range: $6.50-$12.50. Open 7 days, 6 a.m.-2 a.m. 362-7719.

MEXICAN

3. Carlos Goldstein's - 280 O'Farrell St. Serves fine Mexican food including carne asada and fajitas, as well as seafood and a weekend champagne brunch. Full bar service available. Price range: $4.95-$11.95. Open 7 days, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. for dinner; bar is open until 2 a.m. 397-3356.

4. Carlos Goldstein's Tijuana Taquerla - 370 Golden Gate Ave. This fast food establishment serves the best nachos in town in addition to such standard South-of-the-Border fare as burritos and tacos. Daily lunch specials include entree, salad, beans, and rice for $5.25. Price range: $2.95-$6.25. Open Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 474-4294.

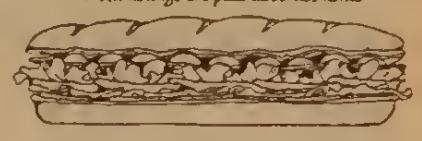
5. Taquerla Chula, 164 Taylor Street. All homemade Mexican food down to the sauce! Combo platters, single items, burritos big and tasty enough for a whole meal. Chula's famous chicken wings go fast. Come in Sundays between 11a.m.-2p.m. and get a free soda with any purchase over $3. Offer good through April. Open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Weekends 'till 7 p.m. 775-5970.

VIETNAMESE

6. Duc Ky Restaurant - 491 Ellis St. A top vote-getter in the 1989 *Tenderloin Times* restaurant contest. Items include catfish hot & sour soup, seafood fire pot, and barbecued pork over rice. Price range: $3-$4.75. Open 7 days, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 928-5188.

7. Tu Lan - 8 Sixth St. Vietnamese restaurant featuring imperial rolls, pork shish kebabs with rice noodles, and rice dishes such as pineapple with beef. Price range: $3.45-$5.45. Open 6 days, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Sun. 626-0927.

* *All listings are paid advertisements*



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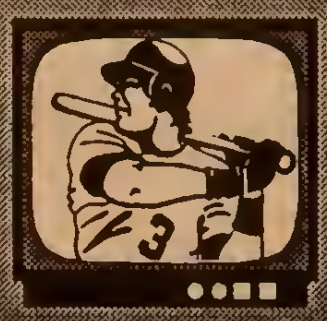
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• Imperial Roll & BBQ pork with rice noodle
• Sauteed prawn with pepper and salt
• Combination chow fun or chow mein
• Sauteed catfish cooked in clay pot
• Catfish hot & sour soup
• Seafood fire pot
• Shrimp & jellyfish salad
• Chicken salad
Nhà hàng chúng tôi có nhiều món ăn Hoa và Việt như:
• Hủ tiếu hay mì seafood
• Hủ tiếu hay mì xào thập cẩm
• Canh chua cá bông lao
• Cá kho tộ
• Tôm rang muối
• Lẩu seafood
• Cơm xườn bì chả
• Bún chả giò thịt nướng
• Gỏi sứa tôm
• Gỏi gà xé phay
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•សាច់ជ្រូកអាំងប្រឡាក់គ្រឿង
•សម្លរម្ហូរត្រីឆ្ងាំងឆ្ងាំងដ
•នំបញ្ចុក ចៃយ៉ រ និងសាច់ជ្រូកអាំង
•បង្ការបំពងមេ្ជស
•សម្លរឆ្ងាំងភ្លើង និង សម្លរម្ហូរយួន
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បណ្ឌិតហ្ជាគ្ជីគិ

ក្បៃ្ត៍កាលពីព្រេងព្រិទ្ធ
សេដ្ឋីផ្តាំម្រដៅ
កូនអើយក្បៃ្ត៍មេបា
ថែទាំចាំរ៉ូសរង
ធម្មតាអ្ហកជាជាតិ
កុំខ្ជិលដេកទទ្ទ
តាក់ដែងខ្ញុំកំដរ
ចិញ្ចឹមតោក្ដ្ររ
ធ្ងៃ្ត ស្ដ្ររទិសត្ដ្ររ
មើលជ្ជ:ស្ដ្ររ:ដ
ឲ្យមានក្ដ្ររ:ដ
ដ៏ងដ្ដ:ដ:ដ
ដ:ដ:ដ:ដ
ចងទ្ទ:ដ:ដ
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ພະຍາດເອດສ์

ຄົນເອເຊັຍຍັງເຂົ້າໃຈຫນ້ອຍ–ຍັງຈະຣະບາດໄປອີກກ້ວາງ

ຂຽນໂດຍ: ວັນດີ ສີວິງໄຊບໍ່

ການເສັ້ນຊີວິດຂອງຊາຍຫນຸ່ມລາວອາຍຸ ນ້ອ ປີຄົນນຶ່ງບ້ອນໂຣຄເອດສ์ຫວ່າງ ນ້ຽງຜ່ານມານີ້ໄດ້ຊີ້ໃຫ້ເຫັນຄວາມສ່ຳຄັນ ຂອງສາຣຕ້ານເຕືອນໄພ້ຊຸມຊົນຄົນເອເຊັຍອາຄະເນພາກັນ ຣະວັງພະຍາດເອດສ์. ນັກສັງຄະນານເວົ້າວ່າຊາວເອ ເຊັຍອາດຍັງຂາດຄວາມຮູ້ຄວາມເຂົ້າໃຈກ່ຽວກັບພະຍາດ ອັນເຖິງຂົ້ນຕາຍນີ້.

ໃນງານພິທີປິງສົບຂອງ"ພະເອກ"(ນາມສົມມຸດ)ໄດ້ມີ ພາດຕີພີ່ນ້ອງແລະຫນຸ່ມເພື່ອນປະມານສອງຮ້ອຍຄົນໄດ້ມາ ຮ່ວມໄວ້ອາໄລຍແລະສົ່ງລາຄົ້ງສຸດທ້າຍ.

ທ. ສົມບຸນ ໄຊຍະສານ ຜູ້ຊົ້ງເຄີຍເປັນຫນຸ່ມ້ຣັກທີ່ ສຸດຂອງຜູ້ກ່ຽວ, ໄດ້ເວົ້າວ່າ "ນັບບໍ່ທັນແປກຫຍັງກັບຮູ ແລ້ດຣ້ດ້ວ: ນັບຈະຕົກໃສ່ນ່ຳເບີ້ດນ່ຳເບີ້ນ. ການດ້ງ ແບບນ້ຶ້ອ້ວ່ຈະມ່ວ:ເ ຖ້ງ່ານ້ຶ້ດ້ານ້ຶ້ງ່ດ້."

ເ ຖ້ງ:ແ່ນ:ว່ານ:ພ:ຍ:ດ:ດ:ສ์ຈ:ແ:ກ:ດ້ງ:ອ:ກ:ຊ:ວ:ດ:ດ:ນ ເ:ອ:ເ:ຊ້ງ:ປ:ະ:ມ:ານ:ນ:ນ:ດ:ດ:ນ:ໃ:ນ:ແ:ຊ:ນ:ແ:ຝ:ລ:ນ:ຊ:ຊ:ສ:ໂ:ກ, ຈ:ະ:ມ:ີ:ຜ້ ດ:ານ:ບ:ນ:ນ:ດ:ນ:ຫ:ລ:ານ:ກ:ວ່:ານ:ນ:ຖ:ຖ:ວ່:ານ:ດ:ນ:ນ:ດ:ນ:ນ:ດ:ນ:ນ

វិបត្តិនយោបាយនៅកម្ពុជា

ដោយសារា ខូល៍ប

ភ្នំពេញ, កម្ពុជា-ការរកសន្តិភាពជូនដល់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជាដែលមានអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិជារដ្ឋកផ្ទួយរៀបចំជងនោះគឺបានធ្វើឲ្យផ្នែកនយោបាយដ្ឋ ក្នុងមានការរំជើបរំជួលផ្ទាច្រើនលើកច្រើនសារ កាលពីក្នុងខែបកដ្ឋាកន្ទងទៅនៅក្នុងទីក្រុងភ្នំពេញ។ ការបាញ់ផ្ទោងនៅក្នុងទីក្រុងកំពង់ធំ, ដែលពួកខ្មែរក្រហមបានប្រព្រឹត្តល្មើសនឹងកិចព្រមព្រៀងនៃការឈប់បាញ់គ្នាដែលបានអាយុទើបបានប្រាំបីខែប៉ុណ្ណោះ បានធ្វើអោយមានប្រជាជនស្លាប់ចំនួន ១៣នាក់និងរាប់ប៉ីននាក់ទៀតក្លាយជានាំគ្នារត់ចោលភូមិករ។

នៅថ្ងៃទី22ខែមករា, លោករដ្ឋមន្ត្រ ទា ប៊ុនឡុង, អាយុ59ឆ្នាំ, លោកបានត្រូវគេចាប់ដាក់រថយន្តហ្ស៊ីប ហើយយកទៅសម្ងាប់ចោល ដោយមកពីបទចោទថា គាត់ចូលចិត្តដើរនិយាយបរិហារកេរ្តិ៍អំពីរឿងពុករលួយដែលមាននៅក្នុងជួររដ្ឋាភិបាល។

ប្រហែលផ្ទាច់ចំនួនបួយអាទិត្យក្រោយបកទៀត, លោកអ៊ុង ផន, អាយុ41ឆ្នាំ, ផ្ទាមេដឹកនាំគណៈបក្សជំទាស់បានទទួលនូវការគំរាមកំហែងដល់ជីវិតដោយមកពីបទថា លោកចង់ធ្វើការឃោសនាបោះឆ្នោតសំរាប់ក្នុងឆ្នាំ93 ដូចមានចែងនៅក្នុងសិទ្ធិសញ្ញាសន្តិភាពបានធ្វើនៅក្រុងប៉ារីស។

ម្យ៉ាងទៀតទន្ទឹមនឹងថ្ងៃដែលគេបានធ្វើឃាតុលោកទាប៊ុនឡុង សម្តេចសីហនុបានរៀបចំពិធីស្វាគមន៍ភ្ញៀវដ៏ពិសេសមួយ គឺលោកយ៉ាសុស្សី អ្ការាស្សី នៅក្នុងព្រះបរមរាជវាំង។ លោកយ៉ាសុស្សីទើបនឹងបានទទួលការកែងតាំងជាប្រធានសមាជិកអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិទទួលបន្ទុកនៅកម្ពុជា (UNTAC)។ ក្រុមអ.ស.ប.នេះគឺមានចំនួនប្រហែលពីរម៉ឺននាក់, ទាំងទាហ៊ាន និងស៊ីវិលដែលត្រូវចូលទៅធ្វើការរៀបចំនៅក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ខាងផ្នែករដ្ឋាបាល និងត្រួតពិនិត្យលើកិច្ចព្រមព្រៀងនៃការឈប់បាញ់គ្នា និងការបោះឆ្នោតដែលគូរភាគីខ្មែរទាំងអស់បានយល់ព្រមចុះហត្ថលេខានៅក្រុងប៉ារីស កាលពីក្នុងខែកុលាកន្ទងមក។

ចួយរយៈកាលកន្ទងបកនេះ ចំនួនសមាជិក អ.ស.ប. ដែលមានខ្ជួននៅកម្ពុជា គឺមានកិចកួចស្ពួចស្ពើងណាស ហើយថែមទាំងបិនសូវផ្ទាមានអ៊ីណាចប៉ុន្ទានផង។

សម្តេចសីហនុប្រធានឧត្តមក្រុមប្រឹក្សាជាតិមានមុខងារដឹកនាំប្រជាជនរហូតដល់ពេលបោះឆ្នោត។ សម្តេចបានខ្ចិតខ្ចំដើរកួនាទីអោយនៅផ្ទារាពាក្រ្ទិត្ស មិនហ៊ានលំអៀងទៅខាងភាគីខ្មែរណាមួយឡើយ។ នៅក្នុងនោះ គឺមានរួមទាំងរដ្ឋាភិបាលភ្នំពេញដែលមានលោកហ៊ុនសែនផ្ទារដ្ឋកដឹកនាំ។ ព្រះអង្គម្ចាស់រណ្ណាឫទ្ធិ ផ្ទាប្រធានភាគីខ្មែរហ្ជុនស៊ីនប៊ិច (FUNCINPEC) ដែលពីដើមមានសម្តេចផ្ទារដ្ឋកដឹកនាំ។ ភាគី(KPNLF) ដឹកនាំដោយលោកស៊ីន សាន និងភាគីខ្មែរក្រហមដែលផ្ទារដ្ឋកទទួលខុសត្រូវក្នុងសម្ងាប់រង្គាលដល់បងប្ជូនខ្មែរផ្ទាងមួយលាននាក់។

"គ្រប់ភាគីខ្មែរទាំងអស់បានធ្វើការអនម៍ត្ត100ភាគរយ នៅលើកិច្ចសន្យាឈប់បាញ់គ្នា និងថែបទាំងបានសន្យាថា មិនឲ្យមានសង្គ្រាមត្រឡប់មកវិញប្ជងទៀតទេ។ ប៉ុន្ត្ថែតាមការពិត ការទង្គិចគ្នា គឺចេះកែមានកើតឡើងសឹងរាល់អាទិត្យ។" នេះគឺជាព្រះបន្ទូលរបស់សម្តេច ដែលបានថ្ងែងកាលពីថ្ងៃដំបូងដែលព្រះអង្គបានយាងនិវត្តន៍ទៅកាន់មាតុភូមិវិញ, បន្ទាប់ពីបានឃ្លាតអស់ផ្ទាងម្ត្ថ្ងៃ១០ឆ្នាំមក។ សម្តេចមានព្រះបន្ទូលថែមទៀតថា សព្វថ្ងៃបញ្ហាដែលមាននៅក្នុងឧត្តមក្រុមប្រឹក្សាជាតិ និងអំពីការល្ម្ងសទៅលើកិច្ចសន្យានៃការឈប់បាញ់គ្នា គឺនៅកែមានមិនចប់ ដោយសារក្រុមខ្មែរក្រហម និងក្រុមហ៊ុន សែនគ្មានជំនឿលើគ្នា។

"ពួកនេះស្តាម់ខ្ញុំណាស, ប៉ុន្ត្ថែគេនៅតែបន្ត្ការស្ពប់ និងមិនទុកចិត្តគ្នាសោះ។" សម្តេចមានបន្ទូល។

បើតាមអ្ជកសង្កេតការណ៍ពីបស្ចិមប្រទេសនិងប្រជាពលរដ្ឋដែលរស់នៅក្នុងទីក្រុងភ្នំពេញបាននិយាយថាសូម្ប៉ីតែនៅក្នុងភាគីលោកស៊ីន សាន និងរដ្ឋាភិបាលភ្នំពេញសព្វថ្ងៃក៏មានការបែកបាក់គ្នាដែរ នេះគឺដោយសារមកពីមានរឿងពុករលួយនិងគ្មានស្ថេរភាព។ អ្ជកធ្វើការដ្ឋភាគច្រើនមានអារម្ម ណ៍ថា ខ្ជួននឹងរស់ការធ្វើបន្ទាប់ពីពេលបោះឆ្នោតរួច។ ព្រោះគេយល់ថា ដលពេលនោះថវិការផ្ទាកិ គឺប្រហែលជាមានមិនគ្រប់គ្រាន់។ សព្វថ្ងៃនេះប្រាកខែអ្ជកធ្វើការទាំងអស់ គឺមានប្រហែលផ្ទាពីចំនួន $5-$10ក្នុងមួយខែ។ ចំណែកពួកកួនទាហ៊ានទាំងបួនភាគីវិញក៏បិនដែលបានមើកប្រាក់ខែអស់ចំនួនផ្ទាច្រើនខែមកហើយ។ ហើយចាក់ទុកថាការស្ម្ដីសុំឲ្យ ត្ជាទម្ជាក់អ្ការ៉ុធចុះ

Photo Doug Niven

សម្តេចបានចាម់ដៃអ្ជកឆោសនយោបាយម្ជាក់ភ្ជួចចំនួន២៤០ដ៏ណលបានដោះដ៏ណលភាណតិ ភ្ជួចខ្ជែកុម្ជ:ភន្ជួចនៅ ដោយរដ្ឋាភិបាណណោកហ៊ុន ដ៏ណន១ នេះតឹចាដ៏ផ្ជែកមួយដ៏ណលដ៏ចចនៅភ្ជួចសន្ធិសញ្ញាសន្តិភាពនិចដ៏ណលធ្ជ្ជើនៅធ៊ីក្ជួចប៉ារ៉ីសភាណតិដ៏ថ្ជ្ជ២៣ដ៏ខតុណា, ១៩៩១

នោះថា ផ្ទាការលើកទ៍កចិត្ត។

ភ្ជ្ជ:ពោះផ្ជ្ជ្ជ:ឆ:ណ:ទ, កិច្ជ្ជ:ពិភ្ជ្ជ:ភ្ជ្ជ:ដ:ម្ជ្ជ:ណ:ទ:ភ្ជ្ជ:ភ្ជ្ជ:ជ:ម្ជ្ជ:ណ:ទ:ភ្ជ្ជ:ជ:ម:ម:ណ:ម:ណ:ម:ណ

គ្រូបង្រៀនជួបប្រជុំជាមួយមាតាបិតា

ដោយ សូជាត់ ប៉ក់

ហាតាមិតាខ្លះរបស់កុមារដែលបានចូលរៀននៅក្នុងសាលានៅសាន់ហ្រ្វាន់ស៊ីស្កូនេះរស់រយៈពេលជាង15ឆ្នាំបកហើយ ក៏ដោយគឺគាត់នៅមិនទាន់បានដឹងថា តើរបាយការណ៍ដែលគ្រូផ្ញើពីសាលាបកផ្ទះនោះតើវាមានសារៈសំខាន់ដូចម្តេចខ្លះទេ។

ទើបតែបកដល់ថ្ងៃមួយ ដែលលោកសរ៉ុលតាន់, គ្រូជំនួយនៅសាលាហ្រ្វាន់ស៊ីស្កូបានធ្វើការពន្យល់យ៉ាងក្បោះក្បាយជាភាសាខ្មែរអំពីរបាយការណ៍ការងាររបស់សិស្សនៅក្នុងអង្គប្រជុំមួយនៅសណ្ឋាគារខាត់ឌីឡាត់ និងនៅចំពោះមុខមាតាបិតាទាំងអស់ចំនួនជាង80នាក់។

"របាយការណ៍នេះចូនកាលបានក្រូវកូនក្មេងវាយកទៅលាក់ទុក ឬបោះចោលបន្ទាប់ពីពេលដែលវាបានធ្លាក់មកដល់ប្ររស់លំបុត្រ។" លោកតាន់និយាយ។ គាត់គឺជាគ្រូជំនួយមួយរូបក្នុងចំនួនក្រូខ្មែរទាំងអស់ដែលមានធ្វើការនៅតាមសាលារៀន និងដែលបានចូលរួមប្រជុំកាលពីថ្ងៃទី8ខែកុម្ភៈដើម្បីជួបជាមួយមាតាបិតាសិស្ស និងដើម្បីជំរាបអំពីបញ្ហាដែលសិស្សទាំងអស់មានដល់មាតាមិតាឲ្យគាត់ជ្រាប។

ចាប់តាំងពីនៅក្នុងឆ្នាំ1990មកក្រសួងសិក្សាធិការបានបង្កើតកម្មវិធីថ្មីមួយដើម្បីជួយដល់សិស្សដែលមានដូចជាខ្មែរ និងរុស្ស៊ីរៀនភាសាអង់គ្លេស គឺកម្មវិធី Title 7 Excel។ កម្មវិធីនេះគឺបានទទួលថវិការពីរដ្ឋជ្ជាល់ហើយដែលមានកូនសិស្សខ្មែរចំនួន150នាក់ដែលមានអាយុពី5-17ឆ្នាំបានចូលរួម។

Photo: Phil Hoel

អ្នកស្រីសាស្ត្រាចារ្យ អ៊ុ ខាត្យា, គ្រូបង្រៀននៅសាកលវិទ្យាល័យម៉ិកគ្លី និងអ្នកស្រីខ្ចុនហ្ស ផ្ទុនសេបុត្តលិកក្រសួងសិក្សាធិការនៅជ្រុងសាន់ហ្រ្វាន់ស៊ីស្កូ បានជួបជាមួយមាតាបិតាសិស្សចំនួនជាង៨០នាកនៅក្នុងអង្គប្រជុំមួយដែលធ្វើនៅក្នុងខ្ទមនីលីតូ

សិស្សទាំងអស់នោះក្រូវបានទទួលនូវការជួយពន្យល់ឲ្យចេះធ្វើកិច្ចការដែលសាលាបានដាក់ឲ្យធ្វើនៅផ្ទះ និងជួយជាដំបូន្ទានដល់សិស្សដែលមាននៅតាមសាលារៀនក្រាំ-បួយថ្នាក់ឧត្តមសិក្សា, មួយទៀកថ្នាក់មធ្យមសិក្សា និងមានចំនួនបីទៀត គឺថ្នាក់បឋមសិក្សា។ អ្នកស្រីCorazon Ponce,ប្រធានកម្មវិធ Title 7 Excel មានប្រសាសន៏ថា, កម្មវិធីនេះបានរៀបចំឡើងក៏ដើម្បីជួយបង្រៀនអង់គ្លេសដល់សិស្ស និងជួយដល់សិស្សឲ្យបានរៀនអំពីអ្វីដែលជាកេរ្ត៏ិ៍របស់ខ្លួនដូចជាការរៀនអាន និងរៀនសរសេរភាសា ខ្មែរ និងអង់ក្លេសជាដើម។

លោក កិន យូរ, ជាគ្រូជំនួយមួយរូបដែរនៅសាលា Sir Franchise Drake។ កាត់បាននិយាយថានៅក្នុងសាលារៀនរបស់គាត់ចំនួនកូនសិស្សខ្មែរទាំងអស់មាន1115នាក់។ កាត់ជាគ្រូជំនួយនៅក្នុងពេលម៉ោងរៀនធម្មកាជង និងជាលោកក្រូជួយបង្រៀនអក្សរខ្មែរដល់សិស្សទាំងអស់នោះ នៅរៀងរាល់ល្ងាចថ្ងៃពុធ និងថ្ងៃព្រហស្សក៏ជង។ គាតប្រាប់ដល់អ្ន្ករយកសារពត៌មានយើងថា, សព្វថ្ងៃនេះកូនសិស្សខ្លះអាចចេះអាន និងអាចសរសេរបាន បន្ទាប់មកកាតនឹងចាប់បង្រៀនអំពីផ្នែកវប្ប្ធម៏។

ការប្រជុំលើកនេះ គឺបានជួយធ្វើការដោះស្រាយបានច្រើនណាស់អំពីបញ្ហានៃការអសសង្ឃឹមរបស់ មាតាបិតាដែលមានទៅលើបុគ្គលិកសាលារៀន។ ខ្ញុំ មានសេចក្ដីកូចចិត្តខ្លាំងណាស់នៅពេលណាដែលកូនរបស់ខ្ញុំវាសុំឲ្យខ្ញុំជួយធ្វើកិច្ចការសាលាដែលគ្រូបានដាក់ឲ្យយកបកធ្វើនៅផ្ទះម្តងៗ។ នេះក៏ជាសំដីរបស់លោក រ៉ឿន រ៉ឿន, ដែលជាឪពុកមួយរូបមានចំណេះស្ទ្ចស្ដ្ចងក្រោះ ខ្ញុនមិនមែនជាកូនអាកាំង។ កាត់មិនចេះនិយាយអង់គ្លេសទេ។ ហើយកាតបាននិយាយថា តើធ្វើដូចម្តេចនឹងឲ្យគាត់អាចយល់អំពីកិច្ចការសាលារបស់កូនគាត់នោះបាន។

ឪពុករបស់កុមារម្នាក់ទៀកដែលបានចូលរួបក្នុងអង្គប្រជុំនោះដែរ។ កាត់បាននិយាយថា កូនរបស់កាត់បានក្រោកកាំងពីព្រឹកថាវ៉ាទៅរៀន និងបានមកផ្ទះវិញនៅពេលបន្ទាប់ចេញពីសាលា។ ប៉ុន្តែមានថ្ងៃមួយស្រាប់តែខាងសាលារៀនកូនរបស់គាត់ទូរស័ពមកប្រាប់គាត់ថាកូនរបស់កាត់ខានទៅរៀនអស់ចំនួនបីខែហើយ។ គាត់បាននិយាយថា, "ខ្ញុំនឹកឡើងសែនហួសចិត្តនៅពេលដែលខ្ញុំបានទទួលដំណឹងនេះ។ ប៉ុន្តែនៅពេលដែលខ្ញុំ បាននិយាយជាមួយកូនរបស់ខ្ញុំ វាបានប្រាប់ខ្ញុំថា ដែលវាមិនចង់ទៅសាលារៀន ព្រោះនៅទ្ធ នោះមានកូនសិ្សខ្ចីចាំធ្វើ ធ្ចាបវា។

ន្ត្ត ស្ត្ីBonnie Burgum, ចាងហ្វ្ាងសាលារៀន Sir Franchise Drake បាននិយាយថារ្ត ស្ត្ីបានខ ិ ក ខ ំ ្ រ ួ ម ធ្ វ ើ ស ហ ការណ ៍ ជ ា ម ួ យ ម ា ត ា ប ិ ត ា ស ិ ស ្ ស ដ ើ ប ្ ប ដោះស្រាយនូវ ប ញ ្ ហ ា នេ ះ ។ "យ ើ ង ប ា ន ស ា ត ល ្ ង ខ ិ ក ខ ំ ធ ្ ើ ការ ដ ើ ម ្ ប ី ដ ោ ះ ស ្ ម ា យ ន ូ ว ป ญ ห า ដ ែ ล ม ា ន ก ើ ก ข ึ ้ ง ร ว า ง ส า ล า រ ៀ ន និ ង ម ា ត ា ប ិ ត ា ន េ ះ ជ ា យ ូ ร ณ ា ស ់ ม ก ห ើ យ ," ន ូ ว ห ្ ត ស ្ ត ី ប ា ន ប ន ្ ត ร ទ ៀ ก ថ ា , "ប ญ ห า នោ ះ ก ็ ภ า ษ า ร ង ់ ก ្ ล េ ส និ ង ช ี ว ิ ต ร ว ม ส ិ ส ្ ส ก ្ ร ว ด ិ ะ ป ี ส ต ั ้ ง ต ั ้ ง ป ี ช ิ ด ม ก ส า ล า ។

នៅវិទ្យាល័យ St. Giles អាស័យដ្ឋានលេខ 1 Hallidie Plazaជាន់ទីបី, ក្នុងទីក្រុងសាន់ហ្រ្វាន់ស៊ីស្កូ នៅជិតហ្ាងលក់ខោអាវ Gap, ក្រង់ កាច់ជ្រុងផ្លូវ Powel & Market, ថ្នាក់និ ម ួ យ ៗ ម ា ន ច ំ ន ួ ន ស ិ ស ្ ស ក ិ ច និ ង ស ្ ត ូ ล ว ย ។ ๚

២ម្ភ ិ ន យ ោ ប ាយ ន ៅ ក ម ្ ព ុ ជ ា

ត ម ក ต ิ ด ต ั ม ១ ๗

ក ក ្ ត ា ម ួ យ ទ ៀ ก ដ ែ ล ส ្ ก า ค ส ្ ก ំ ช ា ง ค េ ค ក ្ ร ង ់ ព ួ ค ข ្ ម ែ ร ก ្ ร ห ป ว ា ម ិ ន ច េ ះ ព ុ ก ร ล ួ យ ដ ូ ช ก ្ ร ុ ม ដ ៏ ข ្ ว ง ๆ ទ ៀ ค ។ ส ូ ม ្ ป ី ค ែ ส ដ ែ ล ก ็ ព ្ ร ះ អ ង ្ ค ป ាន ទ ក ឃ ើ ញ ដ ែ ร ว า ก า ร ก ำ ท ្ ร ด ដ ល ់ ព ួ ค ข ្ ม ែ ร ก ្ ร ห ป ว ส ព ្ ว ถ ្ ง ม ា ន ก า ร ล ូ ค ล า ส ់ ข ្ ล ាំ ง ณ า ส ់ ។ "ន ៅ ค ាบ ภ ូ ม ิ ช ន ป ว ข ខ ្ ះ , ค ឺ ព ួ ค ว ា ป ាន ท ទ ួ ล ន ូ ว ช ោ ค ช ័ យ ข ្ ล ាំ ง ป ែ ล ท ែ ข , "ป ญ ห ู ล ส ដ ូ ช ម ្ ต ច ។ ก า ร ដ ែ ล ព ួ ค ข ្ ม ែ ร ก ្ ร ห ป ว ว า ม ិ น ធ ្ ើ ช ោ ร ป ្ ล ន ់ ព ្ ร ោ ะ ព ួ ค ว ា ป ាន ค า ร ค า ป ់ ទ ី ค ន ្ ល ែ ง ដ ែ ล ส ុ ท ្ ธ ส ី ง ส ំ ป ូ ร ท ៅ ដ ោ យ ธ ន ธ ា ន ដ ូ ช ជ ា ร ณ ្ ฑ ง ว ែ ค ្ ย ូ ง ន ៅ ក ្ ន ុ ง ข ែ ก ร ป ร ป ិ ล ิ ล ิ ล ជ ា ដ ើ ม ។

ก า ร ล ្ ช ើ ส ท ៅ ก ิ ช ្ ช ก ្ ร ม ก ្ ร ៀ ง ข ែ ก ា ร ล ួ ป ប ា ញ ់ ค ្ ก ា និ ง ภ า ព ร ំ ជ ើ ป ร ំ ช ូ ล ข ែ ก ្ ห ก ย ោ ป ាយ ដ ែ ล ม ា ន ข ែ ก ្ ง ท ក ្ ร ុ ง ภ ្ ន ំ ព េ ญ ค ឺ ห ា ก ់ ដ ូ ช ជ ា ญ ា ំ ง ม ก ข ូ ว ส េ ч ក ្ ต ី ส ง ្ ឃ ឹ ม ข ្ ញ ុ ง ก ្ ง ก า ร ป ង ្ ห ំ ឲ ្ យ អ ង ្ ค ก า ร ส ห ป ្ ร ช ា ช ា ก ิ ธ ា ป ់ ป ញ ្ ห ូ ล ข ្ ต ព ធ ិ ง ជ ំ ธ ា ญ ก า ร ช ូ ล ท ៅ ช ួ យ ว ៀ ป ช ំ ก ម ្ ว ិ ธ ี ป ោ ะ ข ្ ห ោ ก ។ ป ុ ន ្ ต ែ ก ា ร ป ោ ะ ข ្ ห ោ ก ข ោ ะ អ ា ช ข ្ ห ូ ท ៅ ป ាន ล ុ ะ ก ្ ร า ค ែ ช ំ ข ូ ล ป ្ ร ช ា ช ូ ข ្ ห ួ ข ท ាំ ง ร ว ส ់ ข ែ ล ป ាន ช ា ง 375,000ន ា ค ់ ข ែ ล ป ាន ท ៅ ค ាบ ช ំ ร ុ ส ព ្ ว ถ ្ ง ป ាន ข ្ ห ូ ป ា ก ุ ภ ូ ป ិ ท ិ ว ก ្ ค ន ์ ន ិ ง ก ្ ร ូ ว ป ោ ส ส ំ ร ា ค ช ំ ก า ร ป ុ ช ช ំ ข ូ ล ช ា ง ค ី ร ล า ន ข ែ ล ม ា ន ท ៅ ค า ส ព េ ญ ว ី ช ช ป ว ข ន ិ ง ข ែ ล ป ាន ข ្ ห ូ ช ឲ ្ យ ม ន ុ ส ្ ส ส ្ ล ា ប ់ ค ្ ก ុ ง ม ួ យ ข ែ ว ๆ ร ห ូ ค ช ល ់ ท ៅ ช ា ง 300ន ា ค ់ ។

ម ា ន ธ ธ ួ ล ร ป ส ់ ข ែ ล ล ែ ช ข ្ ค ូ ช ก า ร ธ ิ ช ข ែ ล ม ា ช ร ค ្ ร ោ ะ ช ូ ว ก ់ ย ก ช ៅ ช ោ ล ช ូ ช ។
ก ើ អ ្ ก ม ា ช ช ្ ម ា ล ាប ป ្ ร ង ม ា ស ុ ช ช ្ ម ា ล ាយ ช ុ ง អ ា ก ុ ย ร ช ย ន ្ ต ช ្ ម ា ล ាง ห ្ ร ឬ ช ្ ម ា ป ាញ ់ ส ค ្ ว ล ิ ค ដ ែ ล អ ្ ก ต ล ែ ง ป ្ ร ើ ว า ដ ែ ร ห ្ ร ទ េ ? អ ្ ก ป ្ ร ห ែ ล ช ា ม ា ช ร ป ส ់ ส េ ส ส ล ់ ข ្ ล ះ ท ៅ ก ្ ន ុ ง ช ្ ះ ដ ែ ล អ ា ช ช ន ា ម ก ช ូ ว ค ร ោ ะ ช ្ า ก ់ ។
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ส ូ ม ท ូ ร ส ័ พ ท ៍ ล េ ข ๔๔๔-๔๓๓๓ ។

ม ា ช ช ូ ล ช ្ ว ห ្ ว ា ล ាย ช ោ យ ส ค ค ិ ค ล ុ យ !
ก ម ្ ว ិ ธ ี (Recycled paint program)យ ើ ง ม ា ช ช ្ ว ห ្ ว ា ล ាប ម ៉ ា ก ท ៅ ค ិ ช (ก ្ ន ុ ง ม ួ យ ช ុ ง ม ា ช ช ំ ណ ុ ะ ๘ ห ្ ก ា ข ្ ว ง ส ំ ร ា ป ់ ล ាប ផ ្ ค ข ាง ก ្ ន ុ ง ช ុ ะ)។ ช ្ ว ห ្ ว ា ล ់ ค ឺ ม ា ช ช ែ ก ช ូ ล ช ់ ป ង ប ូ ล ค ្ ร ប ់ ส ห ค ม ท ាំ ง អ ส ់ ដ ែ ล ร ส ់ ท ៅ ก ្ ន ុ ง ท ី ก ្ ร ុ ง ส ា ន ់ ห ្ ร ា ន ់ ส ុ ី ส ្ ก ូ ដ ោ យ ส ค ค ិ ค ล ុ យ ។
ព ត ៌ ม ា ន ป ន ្ ถ ែ ม ส ូ ม ท ូ ร ส ័ พ ท ៍ ล េ ข ๔๖๘-๒๔๔๒ ។

ร ូ ม ช ា ก า ห ំ ร ង ដ ោ យ the City & County of San Francisco និ ง Norcal Waste

Sự Điều Tra Cho Thấy Người Đông Nam Á Chưa Hiểu Rõ Về Cách Lây Lan Của Bệnh AIDS

Phóng sự của Vandy Sivongsay
Bac Hoai Tran dịch

Cái chết gần đây của một người đàn ông Lào 36 tuổi của khu Richmond đã nói lên tầm quan trọng của việc truyền bá ngăn ngừa bệnh AIDS trong cộng đồng người Đông Nam Á, mà theo lời của những chuyên viên thì họ chưa nắm vững được sự hiểu biết tối quan trọng này.

Mặc dù bệnh AIDS đã gây ra con số tử vong khoảng 12 người Đông Nam Á sống ở San Francisco, bệnh này sẽ gây ra nhiều cái chết thêm nữa nếu cộng đồng này không được thông tin đúng mức. Theo một lần điều tra gần đây thì nhiều người Đông Nam Á có những hiểu biết rất là lệch lạc về sự truyền bệnh của loại virus này.

Theo sự điều tra này thì 40 % những người Lào được thẩm định nghĩ rằng bệnh AIDS có thể lây lan qua hôn hít; 49 % người Cam Bốt cho rằng có thể nhiễm bệnh khi ngồi trên bàn đi cầu ; và 56 % người Việt tin rằng bệnh này có thể lây lan qua một vết cắn hoặc chích của côn trùng. Cuộc điều tra năm 1991 thực hiện bởi CSEARR và Sở Y Tế của thành phố thẩm định ý kiến của 87 người Cam Bốt, 91 người Lào, và 205 người Việt sống trong khu Temderloin. Những nhà nghiên cứu lưu ý rằng kết quả điều tra có thể lệch lạc bởi vì cuộc điều tra chỉ được xúc tiến trong một vài khu nhà của vùng Tenderloin.

Mặc cho những ý niệm sai lệch về bệnh AIDS trong cộng đồng người Đông Nam Á, bệnh này chỉ có thể lây lan qua 3 cách: có quan hệ tình dục với một người bị nhiễm virus này mà không sử dụng condom, dùng kim chích mạch chung với một người bị nhiễm bệnh. Một phụ nữ có thai bị nhiễm virus này cũng có thể truyền virus sang cho đứa con trong bào thai.

Theo những con số đưa ra bởi văn phòng của thành phố về bệnh AIDS thì đã có 239 người Đông Nam Á và Quần Đảo Thái Bình Dương chết vì bệnh AIDS ở San Francisco, trong đó có 13 người Việt, 15 người khác bao gồm người Cam Bốt, người Lào, và người Ấn độ.

Anh Nith Lacroix, một phối hợp viên của Chương trình Ngăn Ngừa Bệnh AIDS của CSEARR, cho biết rằng theo anh thì có lẽ thông điệp ngăn ngừa bệnh AIDS đang lan truyền đến giới thanh thiếu niên Đông Nam Á là thành phần dễ mắc bệnh nhất, nhưng họ lại có một thái độ quẳng mọi sự cẩn trọng theo gió bay đi và chưa chịu thay đổi hành vi để ngăn chặn việc nhiễm virus HIV gây ra bệnh AIDS này.

Anh Lacroix nói: "Họ cũng đư biết chứ, nhưng họ không thèm sử dụng condom trong quan hệ tình dục bởi ý nghĩ rằng bệnh này không thể cham được đến họ. Họ cũng thiếu những người làm gương vì bố mẹ của họ không chịu nói chuyện với họ về tình dục và bệnh AIDS. Bố mẹ của họ cảm thấy ngượng ngùng khi nói về tình dục."

Anh Lacroix và hai nhân viên thâm nhập quần chúng khác nữa của CSEARR giáo dục những thanh niên Đông Nam Á về bệnh AIDS tại những địa điểm như làcác lớp ESL, Hội Người Việt của San Francisco City College và tại Newcomers High School mà thành phố San Francisco mở ra cho những người dân di cư mới vào Hoa Kỳ.

Một Chương Trình Giúp Cho Đồng Đô La Của Bạn Có Giá Trị Gấp Đôi

Bac Hoai Tran dịch

Chương trình SHARE (Self Help and Resource Exchange) hoạt động ở St Anthony Foundation trên đại lộ Golden Gate trong 3 năm qua đã mở rộng chương trình thực phẩm hợp tác này bằng cách mở một địa điểm ghi tên tại Cambridge Hotel trên đường Ellis.

Chương trình Share cung cấp những gói thực phẩm hàng tháng với giá rất hạ cho những người tham dự. Chỉ phải trả 13 đô la và đóng góp 2 giờ đồng hồ cho địch vụ cộng đồng tình nguyện mỗi tháng, mỗi cá nhân sẽ nhận được một gói thực phẩm trị giá từ 25 đô cho đến 35 đô.

Trong mỗi gói thực phẩm sẽ luôn luôn có từ 5 đến 8 pound thịt tươi, trái cây và rau qúa tươi, nhiều loại đậu, ngũ cốc, bột mì, gạo và những loại thực phẩm không hư khác.

Ghi danh vào chương trình này được mở rộng đến tất cả mọi người không kể đến lợi tức của họ. Tiền trả hàng tháng có thể là tiền mặt, money order hoặc food stamp--không nhận check.

Muốn biết tin tức về chương trình này, hãy liên lạc với Bill Peters, St Anthony Foundation, số 121 đại lộ Golden Gate , điện thoại 241-2678, hoặc là John Root, Cambridge Hotel, số 473 đường Ellis, điện thoại 749-2140.

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SƠN TẶNG KHÔNG !
Chúng tôi có loại sơn nhà (chỉ để sơn mặt ngoài nhà cửa, có màu beige, đựng trong những thùng có dung tích 5 gallon) sản xuất từ chương trình tái sinh sơn của chúng tôi. Chúng tôi tặng không loại sơn này cho những người dân thường trú ở San Francisco và cho những nhóm cộng đồng.
Hãy gọi số 468-2442 để được biết thêm chi tiết.

ĐỔ THÁI MIỄN PHÍ NHỮNG LOẠI RÁC RẾN NGUY HẠI Ở TRONG NHÀ!
Quí vị có sơn, dầu máy, chất hòa tan, bình ắc qui xe hơi, chất tẩy, hoặc các loại thuốc diệt trừ sâu bọ mà quí vị sẽ không còn cần dùng đến nữa hay không ? Đó có thể là những loại sản phẩm nguy hại mà quí vị còn tồn trữ ở trong nhà.
Có thể một người bạn nào đó cần dùng những loại sản phẩm này. Nếu không, quí vị có thể đem đổ chúng đi tại Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility gần Candlestick Park. Địa điểm này có thể được sử dụng miễn phí. Ngày giờ mở cửa là thứ năm, thứ sáu, và thứ bảy, từ 8 giờ sáng đến 4 giờ chiều.
Nơi đây dành riêng cho những người dân của San Francisco chứ không cho những tổ chức kinh doanh đổ thải. Quí vị hãy gọi số 554-4333 để được hướng dẫn và biết thêm chi tiết.
Đồng báo trợ bởi City and County of San Francisco và Norcal Waste

Ngân Quĩ Cắt Giảm Khiến Cho Học Viên ESL Phải Chờ Lớp

Phóng sự của Suzanne Rostler
Bản dịch Việt ngữ của Bac Hoai Tran

Những người dân tị nạn và những người mới đến đi tìm những lớp học tiếng Anh đều gặp phải những danh sách chờ thật dài và những lớp học quá đông học viên.

Alemany Campus của City College trên đường Eddy mở những lớp Anh ngữ và Anh ngữ hướng nghiệp cho người lớn từ 18 tuổi trở lên nay có một danh sách chờ lên đến 900 người chỉ mới cho trình độ vỡ lòng mà thôi. Refugee Transitions Program mở lớp Anh ngữ cho những người dân của khu Tenderloin có một danh sách chờ gồm 25 người với khả năng là họ sẽ phải chờ 3 tháng mới có lớp.

Với khuynh hướng đi đôi hiện giờ là số người không biết nói tiếng Anh ngày càng gia tăng ở thành phố này và chỗ học thì lại ngày càng giới han trong các lớp Anh ngữ, tương lai qúa là không mấy sáng sủa cho những người mới đến mà lại chưa biết rành tiếng Anh.

Trung Tâm Phát Triển Thanh Thiếu Niên Việt Nam (VYDC) số 300 đường Ellis là nơi cũng có mở những lớp tiếng Anh cho những người nói tiếng Anh còn kém trong độ tuổi từ 17 đến 21. Giám đốc điều hành của trung tâm này, chị Louella Lee, cho biết: "Nếu những người dân này không có cơ hội được học, họ sẽ khó mà gia nhập được vào trong xã hội, tìm được việc làm và đóng góp được cho xã hội. Điều này hàm chứa một tính chất nghiêm trọng về tương lai của họ."

Những học viên Anh ngữ của Alemany College điển hình là những người dân của Tenderloin hoặc của North of Market với nguồn lợi tức hàng năm khoảng 10.000 đô hoặc thấp hơn.

Những nhà giáo dục đồng ý rằng phần lớn trách nhiệm dạy Anh ngữ như là một ngoại ngữ (ESL) là của những trường công vì những chương trình dạy thu nhỏ trong cộng đồng không có đủ những nguồn tài trợ để mở thêm nhiều lớp. Nhưng càng ngày những community college càng thấy rằng chính họ cũng không đủ sức cung cấp thêm những lớp tiếng Anh để đáp ứng những nhu cầu ngày càng gia tăng ở đây.

Ông Frank Chong, khoa trưởng của Alemany cho biết: "Chúng tôi không thể phục vụ thật nhiều học viên như chúng tôi muốn được. Trường của chúng tôi đã tận dụng hết số tiền mà tiểu bang dành cho những lớp ESL và chúng tôi không nhận được thêm quĩ tài trợ nào khác dù rằng số lượng học viên đã gia tăng."

Kết qủa là các lớp học ở Alemany chật cứng những học viên thuộc rất nhiều sắc tộc khác nhau. Với số lượng học viên và ngôn ngữ đa dạng như thế một vị giáo sư không thể nào lưu ý đến từng học viên được.

Chị Denise Selleck, một giáo sư Anh văn của Alemany đảm trách những lớp vỡ lòng có đến 60 học viên trong mỗi lớp, đưa ra nhận xét: "Nếu mục đích của những người dân này là để trở thành hữu ích cho xã hội thì điều đó không đang xảy ra ở đây."

Chị Selleck cho biết, bởi vì có quá nhiều học viên không được lưu ý đúng mức, hoặc là họ phải đi học dài hạn hơn hoặc là họ đành phải bỏ học.

Chị Nancy O'Sullivan, giám đốc của chương trình dạy đọc và viết của YMCA, đồng ý rằng sự lưu ý đến từng cá nhân là yếu tố quyết định trong việc học và dạy Anh ngữ. Chị đưa ra ý kiến: "Hệ thống community college tỏ ra cứng nhắc và máy móc. Với một lớp vỡ lòng gồm 40 học viên thuộc nhiều sắc tộc khác nhau, bạn không thể thực sự truyền đạt gì được."

Những lớp học Anh ngữ của YMCA trung bình có khoảng 12 học viên chỉ nhận những người lớn biết nói tiếng Quảng Đông hoặc là tiếng Tây Ban Nha. Những lớp này là một phần của chương trình giúp đỡ thành phần di dân hiểu biết và thích ứng với đời sống ở Hoa Kỳ. Trước giờ học, học viên được chia nhóm theo sắc tộc để hội thảo một cách thoải mái và học hỏi về những phong tục tập quán của người Mỹ bằng tiếng mẹ đẻ của họ. Sau đó những nhóm này họp lại trong lớp tiếng Anh của họ.

Cũng giống như chương trình dạy đọc và viết của YMCA, Refugee Transitions, một đề án giáo dục cơ bản, dạy ESL cho những đối tượng di dân như là một phần của sự hiểu biết rộng lớn hơn về nền văn hóa của Hoa Kỳ. 70 % học viên của đề án này là người dân của khu Tenderloin.

xem tiếp trang 20

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Múa Lân và Tiếng Pháo Ngày Tết

Đường Larkin Chào Đón Hội Tết Lần Thứ Nhì

Photo: Beth Richardson

Thị Trưởng Frank Jordan (đứng giữa) cùng với chị Thuy Vu là người điều khiển chương trình và đồng thời cũng là phóng viên của đài phát thanh KQED, và ông Vu Duc Vuong (đứng bên phải) cùng với nhiều người khác trong ngày Hội Tết ngày mùng 1 tháng 2 trên đường Larkin.
Mayor Frank Jordan (center) joined emcee Thuy Vu, a reporter for KQED radio, and Vu Duc Vuong (right) and others for the Feb. 1 celebration of Tet along Larkin Street.

Phóng sự của Kathleen McCaulley và Sethy Keo
Bản dịch Việt ngữ của Bac Hoai Tran

Những tràng pháo nổ, những tay biểu diễn liệng tráo những cây gậy lửa, và trẻ em mặc y phục cổ truyền Việt Nam: đó là những hình ảnh người ta tìm thấy tại Hội Tết lần thứ nhì của khu Tenderloin ăn mừng năm mới theo Âm Lịch của Việt Nam.

Hàng ngàn người tụ tập trên đường Larkin bên dưới những lá cờ của Hoa Kỳ và Việt Nam Cộng Hoà cùng với những chùm bong bóng vàng và đỏ là hai màu cờ của Việt Nam Cộng Hoà trước đây. Những người tổ chức Hội Tết ước lượng một đám đông khoảng 10.000 người, nhưng cảnh sát cho rằng chỉ có khoảng 1.000.

Hội Tết bắt đầu lúc 9 giờ sáng khi ông Thị Trưởng Frank Jordan đốt một phong pháo. Suốt ngày hôm đó tiếng pháo đì đùng, tiếng trống dồn và tiếng chiêng luôn luôn đi theo ba người múa lân trong khi họ len lỏi qua các đám đông.

Trên khán đài chính người ta có thể xem nhiều loại chương trình từ ca nhạc Việt Nam cho đến những màn múa của Cam Bốt và của Lào.

Khoác những y phục gắn nút bạc, đội vương miện và mang thêm những đồ trang sức lộng lẫy, những diễn viên của Southern Vietnamese Theater từ San Jose lên mang đến cho khán giả một tuồng cải lương. Những âm điệu réo rắt của những nhạc cụ cổ truyền, kể cả tiếng đàn cò, phụ họa cho những tiếng ngâm nga của các diễn viên kể lại câu chuyện về một vị vua tìm cách thống nhất một đất nước bị phân chia.

Ba mươi tám quầy dọc theo đường Larkin cung cấp mọi loại thông tin từ một đảng phái chính trị Việt Nam đang tìm cách lật đổ chính quyền cộng sản Việt Nam cho đến một bác sĩ phẫu thuật thẩm mỹ (trước kia từng là bác sĩ trong Hải Quân Hoa Kỳ) sẵn sàng khâu vá những vết thương chiến tranh.

Chị Zoon Nguyen, một người tổ chức của Hội Tết và là nhân viên của Văn Phòng Phát Triển Cộng Đồng của Thị Trưởng, cho đây là một ngày hội thành công và nhận xét như sau: "Hội Tết là một dịp để nêu lên những đóng góp của cộng đồng người Việt trong việc đẩy mạnh sự phát triển của nền kinh tế địa phương và đồng thời cũng là một dịp để cho tất cả mọi người đến với nhau, chung vui và đoàn kết."

Chị Zoon Nguyen cùng làm việc với hơn 17 đoàn thể khác trong khu Tenderloin để tổ chức ngày hội trên đường phố này, trong đó chúng ta thấy có Trung Tâm Tái Định Cư Người Tị Nạn Đông Nam Á (CSEARR), Tuần Báo Mõ, và Refugee Transitions.

Em Thai Hoa, 11 tuổi, cư ngụ trên đường Hyde, tham dự Hội Tết với một người bạn, nói rằng em thích nhất ngày Tết vì em nhận được tiền lì xì mà em sẽ đem gửi về Việt Nam cho ông bà của em.

Chàng thanh niên Tran Kiem, 20 tuổi, cũng có mặt ở Hội Tết, nói rằng anh nghĩ đến Hội Tết như là một dịp để "nhiều con người khác nhau đến với nhau và học hỏi về nền văn hóa Việt Nam. Chúng ta có thể đến gần với nhau."

Anh Tony Tran, cũng nằm trong ban tổ chức Hội Tết, đồng ý rằng ngày hội này không chỉ để mọi người đến mua vui mà còn là để "làm nổi bật cộng đồng người Việt lớn lao ở San Francisco và thông báo cho dân chúng biết về những dịch vụ cung ứng cho họ." Khu Tenderloin có đến 10.000 người Mỹ gốc Việt, và có khoảng 20.000 người khác sống trong những khu vực lân cận trong thành phố San Francisco.

Nhiều người tham dự Hội Tết nói rằng họ thích Hội Tết năm nay hơn cả Hội Tết năm ngoái vì năm nay số người tham dự đông gấp đôi. Nhiều người cũng nhớ lại ngày hội trên quê hương của họ âm vang trên hầu hết mọi con đường và ngõ hẻm của Saigon.

Để tìm lại được bầu không khí đó, những người tổ chức Hội Tết hy vọng sẽ xây dựng được trên những thành công của năm nay.

Chị Zoon Nguyen nói: "Biết đâu chừng năm tới chúng ta có thể mở rộng Hội Tết đến bốn khu phố trong khu Tenderloin."

Photo: Beth Richardson

Những người múa lân đem đến sự may mắn cho các thương gia trên đường Larkin trong ngày Hội Tết hàng năm được tổ chức lần thứ nhì của khu Tenderloin vào ngày mùng 1 tháng 2. Ban Tổ Chức Hội Tết gồm khoảng 18 đoàn thể cho rằng Hội Tết trên đường Larkin không chỉ để đón mừng năm Nhâm Thân mà còn nhằm để nêu lên những cống hiến của 12.000 người tị nạn Việt Nam hiện đang sống tại San Francisco.
Lion dancers spread their good luck to merchants along Larkin Street at theTenderloin's second annual Tet festival Feb. 1.

TIN NGẮN VỀ VIỆT NAM

Bac Hoai Tran dịch

NHỮNG TỔ CHỨC KINH DOANH THÚC GIỤC GIAO THƯƠNG VỚI VIỆT NAM

Những tổ chức kinh doanh ở Hoa Kỳ đang gây áp lực đòi hỏi chấm dứt việc phong tỏa giao thương và đầu tư vào Việt Nam, một nước mà giới doanh thương cho rằng họ có thể làm ăn khá giả ở đó.

Áp lực ngấm ngầm này--dẫn đầu bởi những ngành kỹ nghệ dầu hỏa, xây dựng, viễn thông và cố vấn--được thúc đẩy bởi ý niệm rằng nước Nhật đã chen chân vào Việt Nam hàng nhiều chục năm và sẽ ôm trọn các hợp đồng khi Việt Nam gia nhập vào nền mậu dịch quốc tế.

Bà Virginia Foote cho biết: "Sự quan tâm vào Việt Nam tương đối lớn." Bà Virginia Foote là giám đốc của United States Vietnam Trade Council, thành lập đã 3 năm nay và là một nhóm tư nhân giúp đỡ các công ty và cá nhân tại Hoa Kỳ tạo tư thế chuẩn bị cho sự cạnh tranh ước tính sẽ xảy ra trong nền kinh tế Việt Nam khi mà lệnh cấm vận được bãi bỏ.

-Theo tờ San Francisco Chronicle, ngày 10 tháng 2 năm 1992

CHIA KHOANG DẦU

Hãng thông tấn Reuter phát tin rằng vào tuần trước Việt Nam trên nguyên tắc đã thỏa thuận cho các công ty ngoại quốc quyền thăm dò những khoang dầu ở bên ngoài bờ biển Vũng Tàu. Bản tin cho biết British Petroleum, Statoil của Na Uy, Total của Pháp, Royal Dutch-Shell Group, và những công ty của Nhật và Nam Hàn đã được chia khoang.

-Theo tờ Indochina Digest, ngày 31 tháng Giêng năm 1992

NHỮNG CON ĐƯỜNG NỐI LIỀN VỚI TRUNG HOA SẼ MỞ CỬA

Theo những nguồn tin của chính quyền Việt Nam cho biết thì những con đường nối liền Việt Nam với Trung Hoa, đã đóng cửa từ khi cuộc chiến tranh 1979 bùng nổ, sẽ được mở lại sau Tết năm nay. Người ta dự đoán là Quốc lộ 1 và 3 sẽ được mở lại trước nhất.

-Theo tờ Indochina Digest, ngày 31 tháng Giêng năm 1992

HỒNG KÔNG: THUYỀN NHÂN TRONG NHỮNG "THÙNG THUỐC NỔ"

Một cảnh sát viên tuyên bố: "Những trại này là những thùng thuốc súng." Ông ta đưa ra nhận xét như vậy trong khi đứng nhìn những khu nhà lợp tôn của trại tạm lưu Sek Kong, nơi mà gần 10.000 người Việt Nam hiện đang tá túc. "Chúng có thể bùng nổ bất cứ lúc nào. Thật lấy làm lạ chúng lại chưa bùng nổ trước đây."

Chúng đã bùng nổ vào ngày mùng 3 tháng 2 với 23 người Việt bị chết thiêu trong khu trại của họ trong một trận ẩu đả giữa dân tị nạn miền Bắc và dân tị nạn miền Nam.

Nguyên do của trận ẩu đả này vào ngày Thứ Ba tuần rồi là bởi một số người miền Nam cho rằng những người miền Bắc đã bán rượu quá mắc cho họ trong dịp Tết.

Nhưng cuộc xô xát này đồng thời cũng là âm vang của cuộc Chiến Tranh Việt Nam, một cơ hội mà người miền Nam trút cơn giận của họ lên đầu những người miền Bắc là những người mà người miền Nam cho rằng đã ức hiếp họ sau sự xụp đổ của Saigon vào năm 1975.

Tờ South China Morning Post, trụ cột của người Anh tại địa phương, bình luận: "Giới chức trách dư biết về sự xung đột mà có thể xảy ra giữa những người miền Nam và những người miền Bắc. Tại sao họ lại để cho hai phe đối lập này sống ngay cạnh nhau?"

Trại Sek Kong chỉ là một trong 10 trại tạm lưu khác tại Hồng Kông nơi mà người miền Nam và người miền Bắc buộc phải sống chung với nhau.

-Theo tờ San Francisco Examiner, ngày 11 tháng 2 năm 1992

Những Lớp ESL Không Còn Chỗ Cho Học Viên

tiếp theo trang 19

Giám đốc điều hành của Refugee Transitions, anh Bryan McGowan, cho biết: "Chương trình dạy của chúng tôi dựa vào việc dạy những khả năng hội nhập vào cuộc sống. Chúng tôi cố gắng nâng cao khả năng tự lập qua việc giảng dạy ngôn ngữ."

Anh McGowan cho biết thêm rằng nhiều người tham dự chương trình này không muốn học trong hệ thống giáo dục công lập vì một lý do là những lớp ESL ở community college trực thuộc chính phủ và dựa trên quỹ tài trợ liên bang có mục đích hướng về công ăn việc làm. Anh nói rằng mặc dù họ muốn học tiếng Anh, nhiều người tị nạn chưa sẵn sàng để hội nhập vào nền văn hóa Hoa Kỳ qua công ăn việc làm và do đó bỏ học luôn, trong khi nhiều người khác thì đã lỡ không đi học tiếng Anh quá lâu rồi và bằng cách nào đó vẫn sống được mà không cần phải nhờ vả vào tiếng Anh.

Theo anh Tuyen Nguyen, phối hợp viên tình nguyện của Refugee Transitions, thì: "Đó là một yếu tố sinh tồn. Bạn phải biết tiếng Anh mới cải tiến được cuộc đời của bạn ở đây."